

THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

VOLUME XL

FEBRUARY 1950

NUMBER 2

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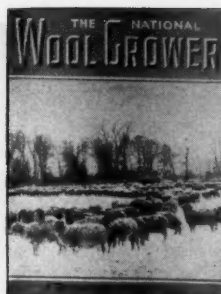
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THE COVER

Since the cover picture is one of Charles J. Belden's, it can safely be assumed that it was taken in Wyoming. However, it could be almost any place in the range sheep country at this time of year. With their warm wool coats and the supplemental feed provided by their owners, the sheep do not seem at all perturbed by the inclement weather.



CHAPMAN'S APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED

The nomination of Oscar L. Chapman as Secretary of the Interior was confirmed by the Senate on January 18, 1950.

OLEOMARGARINE BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS

H. R. 2023 authorizing the repeal of the tax on oleomargarine passed the Senate on January 18, 1950 by a 56-to-16 vote. The House passed this measure April 1, 1949. It is now in the hands of a conference committee. As passed by the Senate the measure provides for the application of the Pure Food and Drug Act to oleomargarine; requires that it must be identified when served in restaurants; that there shall be no "misleading advertising," and that it must be sold in triangular molds.

BOOK ON SELENIUM PUBLISHED

Sam F. Trelease and Orville A. Beath of the University of Wyoming are the authors of a book on Selenium: Its Geological Occurrences And Its Biological Effects in Relation to Botany, Chemistry, Agriculture, Nutrition and Medicine.

The selenium problem, the authors state, is of interest to many livestock men in the western states, and those who wish a copy of this book should place their orders immediately as there are only to be 750 copies published. Address your orders to

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WHAT NEXT?

Out of Winchester, England, comes the story of the conviction of a young cattle dealer on the charge of fitting false teeth to cows and selling them to the Ministry of Food as young stock. The dealer, Douglas Frederick Clay, was given a year in jail for obtaining money under false pretenses.

RABBIT PESTS IN AUSTRALIA

If rabbits could be eliminated in Australia there would be room for 20 million more sheep there; at least that is the opinion recently expressed by some of the lawmakers of that country seeking action on the problem.

REORGANIZATION

While a bill has been introduced by Senator Cain of Washington (S.2833) providing, among other things, for the transfer of the Bureau of Land Management from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture as proposed by the Hoover Commission, it is not believed this part of the reorganization program is imminent. Since this is such a controversial matter in all probability the administration will give considerable study to it before making recommendations.

GOOD WOOL FILM AVAILABLE

The Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., have an excellent film entitled, "Wool From Sheep To Clothing" available for use in schools and other local groups. This film was very well received at the recent National Convention in Denver as a program feature, and has been suggested for use in public relations work.

Anyone interested in securing it should write The Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago 6, Illinois for details.

Dr. R. H. Burns and Alexander Johnston of the University of Wyoming collaborated in the production of this film, and the range shots were made in Utah about four miles across the border from Evanston, Wyoming, on a ranch owned by the Deseret Livestock Company. It traces the story of wool from its source through the processing of yarns and the knitting of worsted yarn into sweaters. It is a one-reeler with a running time of approximately eleven minutes.

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This device has corrected womb trouble in other ewes since then. Last spring I had two other sheepmen try this simple device. Walter Melin, president of the Park County Woolgrowers Association, and Pete Bonhomme, another prominent sheepman. Both reported 100% results. Their address is Livingston, Montana.

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TELEPHONE NO. 3-4483

J. M. JONES

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IRENE YOUNG

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members \$5.00 per year. Entered as second class matter, January, 1913, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103. Act of October 8, 1917, authorized August 23, 1918.

Progress In Washington

1950 Wool Program Set . . . Forest Grazing Legislation Introduced

January 31, 1950

TWO important matters from the standpoint of the livestock industry broke in Washington yesterday and today.

1. Wool support during 1950 at 90 percent of modernized parity and other features of the wool program were revealed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture yesterday.
2. Senator O'Mahoney today introduced amendments to H.R. 5839, the so-called Forest Omnibus Bill, which, if enacted, should be helpful to stockmen using national forest grazing.

The 1950 Wool Program

In announcing the support for wool at 90 percent of parity, the U. S. Department of Agriculture officials said that parity would be determined as of March 15, 1950, and the schedule of support price by grades announced about April 1st.

It has been determined by the Department of Agriculture that prices of shorn and pulled wool will be supported through purchases and that the program will run from April 1, 1950 to March 31, 1951, which the Department states will, in the future, be the normal marketing period for shorn wool; that is, the beginning of the wool marketing season will be April 1st each year.

There are two significant changes in the program this year. They relate to price differentials between grades and the method of purchasing wool from producers.

Under the 1950 program, purchase prices while reflecting 90 percent of modernized parity will follow the 1949 average market price relationships between grades. Under previous programs the purchase price schedule followed more closely the war-relationship between grades than the post-war market prices.

It is indicated by the Department that this will be a continuing idea; that is, each year the differentials will be determined from prices paid during the preceding year and the support levels for the various grades will be based upon those differentials. This, of course, will result in substantial price adjustments from past years' purchasing schedules; that is, lower

the prices for medium wools and increase those for fine. We were entirely unaware that this new plan for determining price differentials was under consideration.

A meeting with the growers and all other interested parties in connection with the establishment of the new schedule of support prices by grades has been set for March 20, 1950 in Washington, D. C. While the Department has very definitely stated that is to be their program and that they have signed the docket, the proposed conference will give the growers and others an opportunity to get a clearer explanation of the program and how it will operate and also present any objections they may have.

Now the other major change in the program is that producers will be given an opportunity to decide after appraisal whether or not they want to sell their wool to the Department. As you will recall, in previous years after the wool was tendered to the Commodity Credit Corporation by producers, it could not be withdrawn. Provision is made in the 1950 program to give producers a chance to compare the program purchase price with the market price, which should encourage the sale of wool in trade channels rather than to the Government.

The length of time in which a producer can either elect to sell his wool under the wool program or through trade channels has not yet been announced. However, it will probably be for a considerable period and possibly to the end of the market year.

The Department of Agriculture will assume no responsibility for the wool until the title is passed to it. In previous programs the Department has assumed the responsibility for losses, storage and other charges from the date the wool was tendered, but under the new program the grower, if he cares to try his wool in the open market, will have to assume those costs.

The program, as in the past, will be handled through wool dealers, cooperatives, and other marketing agencies, and their facilities will be utilized in its operation.

Wool handlers' contracts are to be discussed in Washington on February 9th and 10th, following a meeting of the area appraisers on the 6th, 7th and 8th.

Forest Service Legislation

Senator O'Mahoney today introduced a new version of Section 12 to the Forest Omnibus Bill (H. R. 5839). This new version reads as follows:

"Sec. 12. Of the moneys received from grazing fees by the Treasury from each national forest during each fiscal year there shall be available at the end thereof when appropriated by Congress an amount equivalent to 2 cents per animal month for sheep and goats and 10 cents per animal month for other kinds of livestock under permit on such national forest during the calendar year in which the fiscal year begins, which appropriated amount shall be available until expended on such national forest under such regulations as the Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe, for (1) artificial revegetation, including the collection or purchase of necessary seed; (2) construction and maintenance of drift or division fences and stock-watering places, bridges, corals, driveways, or other necessary range improvements; (3) control of range-destroying rodents; or (4) eradication of poisonous plants and noxious weeds, in order to protect or improve the future productivity of the range."

Opposition of the Forest Service to having funds appropriated by Congress under Section 12 is very strong. However, it is the intent of your representatives in Washington to try to acquaint the Congressmen with the reasons why our industry feels that in cases such as this, it is the duty of the Congress to appropriate money for bureaus.

Also, an amendment to H. R. 5839 proposed and introduced by Senator O'Mahoney today includes the legalization and authorization for advisory boards. One of the important sections of that amendment reads:

"Sec. 2. Upon the request of any party affected thereby, the Secretary of Agriculture, or his duly authorized representative, shall refer to the appropriate local advisory board for its advice and recommendations any matter pertaining

to (a) the modification of the terms, or the denial of a renewal of, or a reduction in, a grazing permit, or (b) the establishment or modification of an individual or community allotment. In the event the Secretary of Agriculture, or his duly authorized representative, shall over-rule, disregard, or modify any such recommendations, he, or such representative, shall furnish in writing to the local advisory board his reasons for such action."

This would seem to give a permittee an opportunity at least to know the reason why actions are taken with respect to the matters covered in this section.

The third amendment to H. R. 5839 in-

troduced today has to do with legalization of 10-year permits and reads as follows:

"The Secretary of Agriculture in regulating grazing on the national forests and other lands administered by him in connection therewith is authorized, upon such terms and conditions as he may deem proper, to issue permits for the grazing of livestock for periods not exceeding ten years and renewals thereof: Provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as limiting or restricting any right, title or interest of the United States in any land or resources."

This is further evidence of the recogni-

tion of grazing as one of the basic uses of Forest Service land.

The group of men from the National Wool Growers Association and the American National Livestock Association who, as part of the members of the Joint Forest Advisory Boards of these two groups, have been working in Washington on these Forest Service problems include: Vernon Metcalf, Nevada; John Noh, Idaho; Everett E. Shuey, Montana; J. B. Wilson, Wyoming, and Secretary J. M. Jones for the National Wool Growers Association; Fred Mockler, Wyoming; Clarence Currie and Floyd Beach of Colorado; Louie P. Horrell of Arizona; Secretary F. E. Mollin and Assistant Secretary Radford Hall for the American National.—J. M. Jones

Wool Conferences at Washington

January 13, 1950

REPRESENTATIVES* of the National Wool Growers Association, National Wool Marketing Corporation, Pacific Wool Growers and the American Farm Bureau Federation held a joint meeting in Washington, D. C. on January 13, 1950 to shape up recommendations to be made to officials of the Livestock Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration and the Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA, at a conference scheduled for January 16th.

After considerable discussion the group agreed on the following recommendations and selected President Howard Vaughn of the National Wool Growers Association to present them to the Government officials.

1. We urgently request that the Secretary of Agriculture announce the support level on wool on February 1 each year in accordance with the intent of Congress as expressed in the Agricultural Act of 1949, to provide 90 percent of parity support until annual production reaches 360 million pounds of shorn wool.

2. We recommend that growers be given the option to accept or reject the Government appraised price on all or any portion

of their clips until the end of the marketing year (January 31).

3. We recommend that when a grower's wool has been placed in approved storage, and has been submitted to the C.C.C. for appraisal, he may elect to and receive from C.C.C. 75 percent of its value as estimated by the handler in charge. After appraisal has been made, the grower may elect: (a) to sell the wool to the C.C.C. and receive final settlement therefor; (b) to retain the wool and refund the C.C.C. any advance which may have been made on it; (c) to obtain a loan to the full appraised value under the support program until the end of the marketing year or such previous time as he may elect to sell the wool outside the Government program, and the grower may satisfy the loan in full, including all accrued storage, insurance, coring and other charges by accepting the full appraised value and delivering the wool to the C.C.C.

4. We urge that the representatives of wool growers' associations be permitted and invited to assist in the formulation of detailed plans of the wool program and particularly in the formulation of price support schedules and merchandising policies.

5. Considerable inaccuracy has developed in the core testing of some grades of wool. We do not condemn mechanical and scientific determination of wool shrinkages, but we request research, cooperation with commercial laboratories, particularly in the coarse wool, and that the Commodity Credit Corporation recognize and accept core tests of all competent coretesting organizations, both private and public, for appraisal purposes after investigation and certification.

January 16, 1950

All segments of the wool growing industry were represented at the January 16th meeting with the officials of the USDA. H. E. Reed, director of the Livestock Branch of the P.M.A. presided and, as stated above, President Howard Vaughn acted as spokesman and chairman of the producer groups.

Representatives of the Department of Agriculture and of the Commodity Credit Corporation indicated in the meeting their support of the "optional purchase plan."

In a statement to the press following the meeting, President Vaughn said, "Growers realize and appreciate that this plan is a distinct advance in the matter of protection of growers' interests, for under it the grower will have the privilege of (1) knowing the particular support price of his own wool and (2) of having the privilege of accepting or refusing that price after it is known and for a time at least sufficient to try the open market. When in operation this plan will create some of the stability that is so essential to the increase of sheep numbers in the United States."

The actual results of the conference, of course, are shown in the 1950 wool program as announced by the Department of Agriculture. (See page 5.) As shown there, the Department officials have set March 20th and Washington, D.C., as the time and place for a discussion of the details of the program with representatives of wool growers.

Department officials also indicated at the January 16th meeting that they would do everything possible to meet the criticism of growers on core testing.

*Leroy Gettings, Sanborn, Iowa
(American Farm Bureau Federation)
Herman Aaberg, Chicago, Illinois
(American Farm Bureau Federation)
C. J. Fawcett, Boston, Mass.
(National Wool Marketing Corp.)
James H. Lemmon, South Dakota
(National Wool Marketing Corp.)
E. F. Ritterpour, Ohio Farm Bureau
R. A. Ward, Portland, Oregon
(Pacific Wool Growers)
E. M. Wood, Jefferson City, Missouri
(Missouri Farm Bureau)
W. E. Hambleton, Washington, D. C.
(American Farm Bureau Federation)
Howard Vaughn, Dixon, California
(National Wool Growers Association)
Dale A. Rouse, Chicago, Illinois
(Illinois Agricultural Association)
J. M. Jones, Salt Lake City, Utah
(National Wool Growers Association)

F. S. Board of Appeals Authorized

A board of five employees of the Department of Agriculture other than the Forest Service is to be set up by the Secretary of Agriculture to hear appeals from decisions of the Chief of the Forest Service "involving any public use of the national forests and other lands under administration or control of the Forest Service."

This announcement was made by Secretary Charles F. Brannan on January 20th.

Anyone wishing to avail himself of the opportunity of a hearing before this board must make written request to the Secretary of Agriculture. The appeal will then be referred to the Advisory Board of Appeals which will consider the appeal on its merits and make recommendations to the Secretary. The party making the appeal may appear personally before the Appeal Board if he so desires.

The use of this Appeal Board is not confined to grazing permits; any user of Forest Service lands such as purchasers of timber and holders of other permits in addition to those for grazing may request a hearing before this Board.

Heretofore, the Secretary said in his release, when an appeal has been made from administrative decisions of the Forest Service it has "always been the practice to call members of the Secretary's staff to make an objective study of the case prior to his personal consideration and decision." The formation of the Advisory Board of Appeals, the Secretary said, was made at the request of grazing permittees.

One of the major criticisms of the Forest Service management of range lands has been or is that the Forest Service, one of the parties to any controversy that may arise over the grazing use of the forests, not only hears the case but decides it and from the decisions made the stockmen have no unbiased group to whom they can appeal. It is believed this Advisory Board of Appeals will offset some of this criticism and eventually iron out many controversial points over management of national forest grazing lands.

Secretary Brannan's action on this Advisory Board of Appeals at this time comes as the immediate result of conferences held by Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming with Chief Lyle Watts of the Forest Service and Secretary Brannan.

This new Board of Appeals should not be confused with the National Forest Board of Review whose three members

are not in the Government's employ and whose reviews are confined to questions of general Forest Service policy. This Board of Review recently heard both sides of the controversy between the Forest Service and stockmen on policies involved in making transfer cuts and handling trespass cases.

New Regional Forester

CHESTER J. Olsen, well known to stockmen of the intermountain area was appointed regional forester for Intermountain Region of the Forest Service on January 20th by Chief Forester Lyle F. Watts. His appointment followed the sudden death of Regional Forester William (Ben) Rice on January 14th. A native of Utah, Mr. Olsen has been connected

with Forest Service since 1919. Commencing as forest ranger in the Humboldt National Forest of Nevada, his 30 years with the Forest Service have included the posts of forest ranger in several Utah forests, forest supervisor of the Nevada National Forest and of the Wasatch National Forest, assistant regional forester in charge of operation of the Intermountain region, of recreational and land activities for that region, and then head of the Division of Information and Education. The last named post he held from 1939 until his recent elevation to Regional Forester.

"In his various administrative posts," the release announcing his appointment states, "Mr. Olsen engaged in all phases of resource management. He performed work on large fires in the Intermountain and also in the Northern Mountain Region, participated in insect control projects and in grazing reconnaissances in Idaho and

1950 Forest Grazing Fees

THE average fee for grazing sheep on national forests during 1950 will be 10.75 cents per head per month, according to information released from the U. S. Forest Service on January 16th. This is slightly lower than the 1949 fee of 11 cents per head. The cattle fee is 42 cents this year as against 49 cents last year. Forest fees, as you know, vary according to the market price received by farmers in the Western States for lambs and beef cattle (exclusive of calves) during the preceding year.

In 1949 the Bureau of Agricultural Economics computed the average price for lambs at \$22.10 (\$22.40 in 1948) which is 241.5 percent of the base price of \$9.15. Therefore, the average grazing fee for sheep for 1950 is 241.5 percent of the 1931 base fee of 4.5 cents or 10.8675 cents which rounded off to the nearest quarter cent is 10.75.

The cattle fee is figured on a 1949 market price of \$19.40 (\$22.20 in 1948) which is 293 percent of the base price of \$6.62. Therefore, the cattle fee is 293 percent of the base fee of 14.5 or 42 cents.

The average prices which the B.A.E. estimates farmers in the Western States received for beef cattle and lambs during 1949 are set up below.

The National Wool Grower last fall received a request to publish the forest fees by local areas. However, the Washington office of the Forest Service has informed us they do not have the fees for local areas but they may be obtained by permittees

from regional or supervisor's offices. The Forest Service states they have only the minimum and maximum rates for each forest and that there is considerable spread between minimum and maximum fees in a given forest.

BEEF CATTLE AND LAMBS: Average prices received by farmers per 100 lbs., designated Western States, 1949¹

STATE	BEEF CATTLE excluding calves	LAMBS
	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
Montana	18.20	21.20
Idaho	19.50	20.90
Wyoming	18.70	21.30
Colorado	21.20	23.00
New Mexico	20.00	22.30
Arizona	19.70	21.40
Utah	19.60	21.20
Nevada	20.00	21.60
Washington	18.50	21.00
Oregon	17.70	20.20
California	19.10	24.30
Western States	19.40	22.10

1—Preliminary

Note: Method of Derivation: (Quoted from BAE memo of 1-3-46)

Annual average prices by States are based on prices received by farmers on the 15th of each month as estimated for each State by the Crop Reporting Board and weighted by estimated monthly marketing. Prices for all Western States combined were computed by weighting annual average State prices with a preliminary indication of shipments and local slaughter.

Montana, and has had several details to the Washington office of the Forest Service in connection with land and range man-

agement programs. He is considered one of the top range management officials in the Intermountain Region."

Why Sheep Numbers Are Down

By A. R. BOHOSKEY

WOOL GROWERS of the Western States are thoroughly familiar with the fact that we now have approximately half as many stock sheep in the United States as we had ten years ago. We are told that we have fewer stock sheep in the country than we had during the Civil War when the population was about 45,000,000.

We wool growers are fully aware of the importance to the national economy of a substantial sheep and wool production. Some Government officials at least have emphasized the vital importance of wool and meat in time of war. During World War II we were fortunate in being able to keep the sea lanes open, which enabled us to import our full requirements of wool from Australia, New Zealand, South America and South Africa. In the event of World War No. III it may be a different story. We hear of Russia producing an Armada of large, fast submarines, capable of staying submerged for unbelievable periods and not detectable by radar.

In view of these known facts we can see the reason for our Government, through the Secretary of Agriculture, appealing to us to increase the production of sheep and wool. We, ourselves, realize that this appeal is equivalent to "locking the stable after the horse is stolen."

Just plain stupidity on the part of our Government officials caused the decline in sheep numbers during the war. We are told that scarcity of sheep herders is the real cause. This, of course, is a contributing factor. Major factors were the Office of Price Administration and Commodity Credit Corporation. Early in the War, I attended a meeting held in the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, and presided over by California's very efficient Chet Wing. This meeting was with representatives of the Office of Price Administration and I was representing the wool growers of Oregon and Washington. I made the statement at that meeting that we would regret the day we allowed such rigid controls on prices of meat under the OPA and of wool under the CCC. I haven't changed my mind in the least. High union wages in ship yards and other industries, high costs of hay,

grain and other feeds, coupled with low ceilings on meat and low prices on wool caused sheepmen to go out of business in droves or turn to cattle and grain production.

As perhaps 75 percent of our production of sheep has been in the 13 Western States, just what chance have we of increasing production in these States? I would say the chance is very remote for any substantial increase. It won't take me very long to point out the reason.

Due to high support prices on grain, millions of acres of good grazing land in the West have been broken up and are now producing wheat and other grains. Most of this land requires dry land methods of summer fallowing half the acreage each year, thus taking out of use for grazing a vast acreage. I know of many sheepmen, some of whom ran up to 7,000 or 8,000 ewes in the Pacific Northwest who plowed up most of their range and now raise wheat and cattle. As the Government guarantees a wheat grower a profit, one cannot blame them. There certainly is no such guarantee on sheep production.

During the past fifteen years, other millions of acres of land have been taken out of grazing use by the U. S. Government and various States and converted into game refuges and game reserves. Vast areas outside of our national forests have been set aside for this purpose.

We are all familiar with the drastic reduction made by the U. S. Forest Service in the past fifteen years in cattle and sheep permits. A great deal of criticism has been directed at the Forest Service for making these reductions. My observation in the Pacific Northwest has caused me to believe that these cuts were justified on the grounds of overstocking, but the overstocking was in big game rather than in cattle and sheep. As an illustration: In the Cascade Mountains west of Yakima, Washington, in 1912, forty-two cow elk and some bulls were imported into the area from Yellowstone National Park. Through pressure from sportsmen and the State Game Commission this herd has increased until now it is estimated there are

between twelve and fourteen thousand head. This, of course, led to overgrazing. As the sportsmen greatly outnumber the stockmen, drastic reductions were made in sheep and cattle in the National Forest. In spite of this, some areas have deteriorated from a feed standpoint drastically even though no sheep or cattle have grazed those areas for over five years. Forest officials estimate the National Forest in that area will support about 2,700 elk in the summer, but they seem powerless to get a proper reduction. We stockmen are called upon to winter the elk on our spring, fall and winter range. This, we cannot continue to do.

During the War our Government condemned and either leased or purchased untold millions of acres of grazing land for use by the Army and Navy. Much of this land is still being held by them and at present they are busily engaged in condemning more. I have asked them why they don't use Government land which is not suitable for grazing for artillery and bombing ranges, but they say "it isn't handy for them."

The loss of millions of acres of winter spring and fall range as outlined above will prevent any increase in range sheep production, especially in view of the fact that summer ranges are being reduced in the U. S. national forests.

What is the chance of increase in ranch or farm flocks? Our wheat farmers in the Northwest formerly had thousands of ewes which kept down the weeds on the summer fallow, utilized the stubble, etc., but they find that it is more profitable to run a few cattle instead. They do not require woven wire fences and have no loss from dogs and predatory animals. Many farmers feel the same way.

As long as we have the present Administration in power we can look for no reasonable tariff protection for our industry. My personal opinion is that we will see a further decline in sheep numbers in this country during the coming ten years.

Gateway Hearings Set

HEARINGS in the Ogden Gateway Case are to be resumed by the Interstate Commerce Commission at Boise, Idaho, on April 3rd. The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad is seeking, in this case, to have the Union Pacific required to establish through rates with the D.&R.G.R.R. on traffic moving to and from the Pacific Northwest via Ogden, Utah.

Producer-Feeder Team Visits Eastern Retail Meat Dealers

By G. N. WINDER

This is the report of the special committee appointed to contact personally important retail merchants in the East for the purpose of developing better merchandising of lamb, particularly in heavier weights. (See N.W.G. 1-50, p. 25) The committee consisted of: Paul Blood, Morrill, Nebraska, representing Colorado-Nebraska Lamb Feeders Association; J. C. Petersen, Spencer, Iowa, representing Iowa lamb feeder interests; and G. N. Winder, representing the National Wool Growers Association. Mr. Winder makes the report for the committee.

THE immediate problem which prompted the tour was the resistance being evidenced against the merchandising of heavier-than-normal lamb. Due to a combination of factors, there has been a bigger proportion of heavy lambs going to market this season than normally. To begin with, the lambs going into feedlots and onto the wheat pastures in Kansas were heavier than usual, and excellent weather and feed conditions brought about quicker development and fattening of the feeder lambs than usual.

The heavy lambs were being penalized both on the live market and in the dressed meat trade, so it was felt that perhaps some direct contacts with the large retailers of lamb in the East might help in lessening the prejudice against heavy lambs and help to move them into consumption.

We contacted heads of the meat departments and meat buyers for large chain store organizations, meat buyers for super markets, officials of independent retail meat and grocery associations, and a good many small independent meat retailers. We also talked with some meat packers, meat wholesalers and brokers, and as many actual consumers as it was possible to contact in the short length of time allotted.

We visited Chicago, Cincinnati, Buffalo, (New York), Boston, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D. C. and ended the tour in Chicago with a general conference of the Lamb Industry Committee.

We received very courteous consideration and attention from everyone contacted. Without exception, they listened to our story with a great deal of interest and we were also able to learn a good deal about the problems of meat merchandising where the bulk of the lamb meat is consumed.

We did learn that there is a considerable amount of prejudice both on the part of the consumer and also on the part of the retail butcher to using and merchandising the heavier cuts of lamb and heavier lamb carcasses. The chief objection on the part of the consumer is that the cuts are too large for the average small family in metropolitan areas in the East. However, to a large extent, this objection can be overcome if the retailer will cut and trim the larger lambs properly.

The chief objection on the part of the retailers to handling larger lamb carcasses is that there is more waste, due to more kidney fat and more trimmings, which have to either be thrown away or sold for 1½ cents to 3 cents a pound.

We found that large retail outfits such as chain stores and super markets could readily adapt their selling practices to handle the heavier weight lambs at a price which would be competitive with other meats of like quality.

We found that there was pretty well established in the minds of the smaller individual meat retailer the idea that he could not sell lambs which weighed over 45 pounds dressed. That weight of lamb carcasses seems to be what all the retailers would like to get; but we did find that where there is an abundance of heavier lamb that could be bought for less money, the chain stores and super markets were able to merchandise them without too much trouble.

We learned that the abundance of relatively cheap pork loins and poultry had a decided effect on the retail lamb market.

We found that self service is increasing rapidly in the East, especially in chain store operations and super markets. Almost every chain store and super market execu-

tive we talked with stated that all new installations and all stores being remodeled were going on 100 percent self service, and that most of them plan to convert to at least partial self service as rapidly as possible.

All the meat executives of chain stores and super markets stated self service had been a big help in lamb merchandising, especially in the merchandising of the so-called less desirable cuts. A number of cases were cited to us where in units their lamb business had been practically nil before installation of self service, but after going on a self service basis, they are now selling a considerable amount of lamb. They felt the reason for this had been the prejudice against lamb in the mind of the butcher behind the counter or, in some cases, prejudice held by the meat buyer; but more often it was on the part of the butcher behind the counter.

We found a very wide variation in the percentage that lamb sales constitute of the total meat business in the various areas. For instance in the Chicago area, one large chain store executive said their lamb business represented approximately three percent of their total meat business. In the Cincinnati area, the lamb sales constituted one percent or less of the total meat business. In the New England area, the percentage varied from 15 to 25 percent, while in the New York area, the lamb business represented from 20 to, in some cases, more than 25 percent of the total meat business, including poultry.

We also learned that approximately 15 percent of the total lamb supply was sold through the Kosher trade channels, and the Kosher retailers have very strict specifications as to carcass weights. They will take nothing over 45-pound carcasses and pre-

fer them less than 40 pounds. If carcasses of this weight are not available, they will turn away from lamb and use other meats and poultry.

Conclusions

From the conversations had and the facts learned, we feel that the trip was a success, even though no marked improvement is shown in the live lamb market.

Every person we contacted showed a great deal of interest in hearing about our problems, and they were all very anxious that we should know something more of the problems of meat merchandising. In this respect we feel that there is a large field for public relations work with the retail segment of the meat industry. Perhaps in the future it would be well to consider having a group of producers and feeders make similar trips each year. It would be also well to consider inviting representatives from the meat merchandising field to meetings of our groups, so that a better understanding of each other's problems can be brought about and a greater degree of cooperation between the various segments can be had.

We also feel that there is need for a continued program of consumer education with respect to lamb. We feel that there is even greater need for education with respect to the retailers and butchers who actually handle the product over the counter. We feel that if the butcher is convinced that lamb is a good product and that he can sell it at a profit, the consumer resistance can soon be overcome.

We suggest that the Lamb Industry Committee be rejuvenated and enlarged to include lamb selling agents or commission firms and that a concerted effort be made to get active members from the retail meat segment of the industry to work on the committee and that they proceed to outline a constructive education program to be directed to the consumer and also the retail meat dealers.

We feel that the economy of the sheep industry would be much more stable if the total production of lamb was increased materially, and it seems that the only place any great increase in the sheep business can be had will be in the area where certain acreages of corn and other crops are being taken out of production and will probably be converted to pasture crops. In this respect we suggest the cooperation of the various agricultural colleges in working out a sound program of assembling and dissemination of information for the use of prospective sheep owners as to the best type of animal for production and the best methods of sheep production applicable to their area.

THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL RAM SALE

The 35th National Ram Sale will be held in Salt Lake City, August 21 and 22, 1950.

National Western Stock Show

FROM its beginning in 1906, the National Western Stock Show has steadily advanced until it is recognized as among the top shows of the country. This year's event—January 13th to 21st and at Denver, of course, reached new heights, from all reports. And next year it is expected the event will be housed in the new three-million dollar stadium now under construction.

John T. Caine, III, its manager since 1943, can be justly proud of the increasing importance of this livestock event.

Top awards in the sheep and wool divisions are given below.

BREEDING SHEEP

Hampshires: Champion Ram and Reserve Champion Ewe, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Reserve Champion Ram, Ward R. Smith, Fort Collins, Colorado. Champion Ewe, Belmar Ranch, Denver, Colorado.

Suffolks: Champion Ram, Champion Ewe, and Reserve Champion Ewe, C. R. Sanderson and Sons, Monte Vista, Colorado. Reserve Champion Ram, Belmar Ranch, Denver, Colorado.

Southdowns: Champion Ram, Champion Ewe, and Reserve Champion Ewe, Doak Brothers, Hallsville, Missouri. Reserve Champion Ram, Hillstead Farms, Denver, Colorado.

Rambouillets: Champion Ram, Champion Ewe and Reserve Champion Ewe, New Mexico A. & M. College, State College, New Mexico. Reserve Champion Ram, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

Corriedales: Champion Ram and Champion Ewe, C. R. Sanderson and Sons, Monte Vista, Colorado. Reserve Champion Ram and Reserve Champion Ewe, R. L. Waters, Center, Colorado.

Columbias: Champion Ram, Champion Ewe, and Reserve Champion Ewe, R. J. Shown, Monte Vista, Colorado. Reserve Champion Ram, Frank McGee, Monte Vista, Colorado.

FAT SHEEP CLASS

University of Wyoming took all high honors in the fat lamb division of the show. Entries from that institution were judged grand champion and reserve grand champion fat lambs. The grand champion lamb weighed 95 pounds and sold at \$3.05 per pound, while the reserve grand champion weighed 109 pounds and brought \$42 per hundredweight.

In the carloads of 50 fat lambs, John Strachan and Son, Ft. Collins, Colorado, took grand championship honors with a load of crossbreds that sold at \$23.25 per hundredweight. The Northern Colorado Junior Lamb Feeders Association had the reserve champion pen in this division, which reached \$24.30 per hundredweight in the auction sale. In the truckloads of 25 head of fat lambs, grand champion pen were Southdowns shown by Eugene Doversberger of Brighton, Colorado and sold for \$30.25, while \$24.75 was paid for the reserve champion truckload, crossbreds from the Farr farm at Greeley, Colorado.

Holly Wright, Denver, Colorado, won first place for a truckload of 25 fat ewes (crossbreds) that sold at \$13.80 per hundredweight. Second place in this class was awarded Walter Nygren of Johnstown, Colorado; selling price of this lot was \$13.75.

The champion lamb in the junior show was a Southdown, exhibited by Don Brozovich, Lakewood, Colorado, and sold at \$53 per hundredweight. The reserve grand champion lamb, also a Southdown, in this show was shown by Virgil Schoeling of Garber, Oklahoma; sold at \$29 per hundredweight. Young Schoeling had the grand champion pen of fat lambs, Southdowns. A pen of Hampshire lambs exhibited by Lowell Moran of Walden, Colorado, were the reserve grand champions.

WOOL AWARDS

New Mexico exhibitors received most of the awards in the National Western Wool Show. A Rambouillet ewe fleece, shown by the New Mexico A & M College, was rated the grand champion fleece of the show and winner of the National Wool Growers Association's silver plaque. A Corriedale ram fleece shown by Floyd Childress of Roswell, New Mexico, was selected as the reserve grand champion fleece, and the best exhibit of fleeces made by an individual was that of the Fuller Ranch, Picacho, New Mexico. Bob Rogerson of Walden, Colorado, won the Osborn Trophy for the best Colorado range fleece.

Sheep In The Uncompahgre Valley

By DR. JOHN ASHTON

One day last fall we had word from Dr. John Ashton that he was over in the Uncompahgre Valley of Colorado and was so impressed with sheep country there that he thought some interesting material could be developed for the Wool Grower. As Dr. Ashton had been a contributor several years ago, we knew that what he wrote would be very readable, so we told him to go ahead. And here is his description of the sheep plant of J. Stuart Hofmann and his sons.

Mr. Hofmann is well known to western sheepmen, as he was president of the Colorado Wool Growers Association from July, 1943 to July, 1946 and continues his active interest in and support of sheepmen's organizations.

SHOULD a visitor to the Uncompahgre Valley and the Western Slope in Colorado inquire about sheep and wool he is invariably referred to J. Stuart Hofmann as being one of the leading two or three flockmasters in that typical sheep country.

If you wish to see his sheep, Stuart Hofmann, after proper introduction, quite affably will take you out to where his flocks happen to be at the moment, provided you do as he suggests: rise early, eat breakfast, and be ready to start out promptly at 6:30 a.m. He reminds you of an army man; he does not ask you if that hour will suit you, but tells you his plans and, like a good soldier yourself, you fall in line.

Precisely at the hour he drove up, honked once, and we were off for the Big Cimarron, less than an hour's drive from Montrose. On leaving town we traveled

west for several miles on Highway 50, then, without a word, Mr. Hofmann suddenly turned off the road at a difficult angle and drove onto a by-road hidden by bushes. We were on one of those "stock trails" which the visitor discovers here and there in this region—some are marked, some not—leading to mountain pastures. Steep grades and corkscrew bends, hugging precariously the mountain side are taken for granted, and a sluggish liver would probably begin to function normally after a few miles of such treatment. Fifty minutes of ascent brings us to an elevation of about 8,000 feet; down on the highway it is about 5,600 feet.

The air is nippy, the weather fine and clear, and soon we reach the extensive grasslands characteristic of the Big Cimarron. Some brush breaks the perspective, but not dense, consisting chiefly of dwarf

or scrub oak, with a little cedar. One gets the impression that this is an excellent sheep country.

Up on the Big Cimarron

Presently we hear the bleating of lambs and the answering call of the ewes, and soon espy a series of corrals and pens from which the noise comes. Three men appear to be quite busy separating the lambs from their mothers. Edwin Hofmann, son of my host and guide, with two Mexican helpers, has been working since dawn with this flock. All spring and summer these lambs and ewes have been together, but never again! To market they must go; that is, the lambs; some of the ewes, too, if beginning to fail as producers, or if their teeth are not good. One can't count on age alone; some ewes



Courtesy, Montrose County Chamber of Commerce

• Sheep on pasture in the Uncompahgre region. Note luxuriant pasture.

are remarkably resistant to inroads of time and continue to bring forth fine lambs to an advanced age, says Mr. Hofmann.

Now the four men are making some adjustments or repairs to the Fairbanks scale. After a brief delay everything is ready for the weighing. The first lot of thirty-five lambs shows a gross weight of 3,600 pounds; the next weighing of fifty-four lambs tips the beam at 5,470 pounds; another lot of thirty-two weighed 3,200 pounds—and so it went until all the “singles” had been weighed. Both Stuart and Edwin Hofmann seemed to be satisfied. These were good lambs, without fill, for they had been corralled all night without a bite to eat. To be sure, most of them had black noses with the typical strong frontal bone of the Hampshire, and were probably the pick of the Hofmann flock; they looked very thrifty for their age. Naturally, they averaged appreciably more than twin lambs; but twin lambs bring more profit to the owner, of course.

It is now 8:25 a.m. We have been on this high plateau about an hour. The boys are out rounding up the rest of the flock, mostly those ewes with twin lambs. They seem to divine that henceforth it will not be the same, as they approach the corrals in a cloud of dust, slowly and hesitatingly as if a trap were being set for them. On they come, by fits and starts; without real leaders the foremost lambs keep stopping, as if fearful of running into danger. Then one or two of the more venturesome forge ahead and, under the pressure of those behind others follow. Again a dead stop; now the active black-and-tan sheepdog, of mixed origin (he shows some Border Collie blood, but the rest of his make-up, who knows?) like the sheep, chases some of the lambs and ewes on the flanks to the front, and so on until all are securely packed in the big corral.

While the dust settles and the lambs and their mothers unscramble themselves with much difficulty, the four men mop their faces of grime and sweat and prepare to pass the sheep through the chute to divide them. In a tiny pen on one side a big Corriedale ram takes a bored view of the whole proceeding. He is a stray and must remain there until such time as his owner can come and get him. Occasionally, as they have done since Biblical times and long before history was written even, sheep will stray away, or linger behind and get lost to mingle with other flocks if some predatory animal does not get them in the meantime. To stop the ram from jumping the fence to mix with the ewes he is hobbled by a strap—foreleg

to hindleg, on the same side. On casual inspection of the flock two more strays are found by the sharp eyes of the Mexican shepherds and unceremoniously thrown over the fence to keep company with the ram.

I watched some of the weighing of these



Mr. and Mrs. J. Stuart Hofmann.

twin lambs; at first they were separated and counted. Edwin Hofmann did this expertly, working the gate with one hand, while in the other holding a comptometer. He counted 728 twin lambs, thus bringing to a little more than one thousand the total lamb crop which Stuart Hofmann had told me they ran on the Big Cimarron.

These twins, apart from the fact that they ranged definitely lighter than the singles, seemed to vary more within themselves than the singles. While a few were not far behind the average among the latter, others were decidedly lower in quality, as would be expected, culls in fact.



J. Stuart Hofmann (left) and Dr. and Mrs. John Ashton at Hofmanns' Horsefly Mountain Lodge.

A Region Where Sheep Have Replaced Cattle

Coming down from the windy top, lush with grass and browse, we enjoy a thrilling view of hill and valley that stretches for many miles into the distance, culminating in the snow-capped San Juan range, dominated by the Uncompahgre peak (14,306 feet), highest mountain in that range of the Rockies. Incidentally, the San Juan range, as viewed from Montrose and vicinity, has 23 peaks over 13,000 feet high, with two peaks over 14,000. Sneffles, next in height to Uncompahgre, towers 14,143 feet.

In dramatic fashion Stuart Hofmann, who has been up and down these hills and mountains perhaps more than any other present-day stockman, waves his hand toward those distant peaks and hills and valleys—a majestic perspective of unforgettable beauty in the clear atmosphere of a sunny autumn day, and declares with feeling: “On those hills and valleys you see there, 30,000 ewes are grazing right now, owned by various flockmasters; but you can’t see a single sheep from here.” They take the place of 6,000 cattle that formerly grazed the same acres.

Yes, indeed, it is a great sheep country, this Western Slope, and one could hardly blame Mr. Hofmann for changing from cattle to sheep. He started with the former, but economic necessity forced him to take up sheep; he has been successful ever since.

As we reached the outskirts of Montrose, my host remarked: “Remember, tomorrow, if it is fine we are going out to my other sheep ranch, twenty-four miles in another direction. Mrs. Hofmann is going out, and she wants your wife to go along if she cares to.”

“I know she will be delighted,” I answered. “Even this morning as I left home she mentioned how much she would like to accompany us,” I added.

Through the Uncompahgre Forest to the Horsefly

About 9 a.m. the next morning, therefore, the four of us set out in a comfortable sedan this time, for the Horsefly plateau. We should travel on better roads in visiting this ranch which is under the active supervision of the second son of the Hofmanns—Bill, who is a chip of the old block, and is a flockmaster both in theory and long practice. A graduate of the University of Colorado, Bill had recently completed the

• (Continued on page 37)

New Aids to Volume Lamb Production

By JERRY SOTOLA, Assistant Director
Armour's Livestock Bureau

This is the second section of the talk made by Mr. Sotola at the 85th convention of the National Wool Growers Association in Denver on December 9, 1949.

Mr. Sotola has a wide and intensive background of livestock research. From 1919 to 1943 he was professor of animal husbandry at Washington State College where he was in charge of teaching courses and research in animal nutrition, livestock feeding and meats to students in agriculture, home economics, and veterinary science.

In 1942-43 he was secretary of the Washington Cattlemen's Association; in 1939-40 he was president of the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Production, and during 1943-45 he was director of research for a big feed company in Los Angeles, California where he specialized in producing mineral, vitamin and protein supplements for livestock rations.

He has written numerous bulletins and scientific articles dealing with livestock feeding and nutrition research. Also his extensive travels have made him familiar with livestock producers' problems.

The third and last part of his address will appear in March.

AT the South Dakota Experiment Station a rather interesting study is being carried on to determine the protein requirements of pregnant ewes. The results of three-years' work with ewes averaging 130 pounds have been released. Instead of feeding 3 to 3½ pounds of hay and a quarter pound of soybean meal, they fed one-half pound of soybean oil meal and relied on winter grazing with very little hay. The method of wintering ewes was shown to have a significant effect upon the birth weight of lambs, their gains, and the milk production of the ewes. Ewes wintered on the range must obtain a greater percentage of their protein requirements from the cake rather than from the grass.

In South Dakota they have also shown that the protein content of standing grass continues to go down during the fall, and that by mid-winter it may have only 15 or 20 percent of the protein that it had during the summer, and what's more, the digestibility of that protein decreases considerably. About one-half pound of cake seemed satisfactory. From 3 to 3½ pounds of alfalfa hay also provided an adequate amount of protein. The weight of the ewes during the winter was affected by the amount of supplementary protein rather than its source.

Ewes weighing 120 pounds wintered on alfalfa hay gained 20 to 22 pounds. Brome grass hay supplemented with one-half pound of soybean oilmeal was more or less equal to the alfalfa hay. When the ewes were wintered on brome grass hay and 1 pound of alfalfa, they gained about 10 pounds. On straight brome grass hay they gained only 3½ pounds.

Kidney Stones

At the Scottsbluff Station at Nebraska, one of the important feed-lot problems has been that of urinary calculi (kidney stones) in feeder lambs when the feed, particularly beet top silage, is the only roughage in the fattening ration. The trouble seems to be worse when corn and cottonseed cake are the concentrates. Bone meal has been fed with the above feeds. When at least one-half pound and preferably three-fourths pound of alfalfa hay has been added to the ration, the cases of fatal urinary calculi have been controlled to where they are no greater than an expected death loss in feeder lambs. It is also interesting to observe that the use of barley and of soybean meal as the concentrates with beet-top silage seems to be about as good as adding alfalfa hay.

Some of the lambs on corn and alfalfa, however, also showed symptoms of kidney stone trouble, and this indicates possible nutritional deficiencies in feeder lambs before they reach the feedlot. Professor Alexander of Nebraska observes that there must be great variation between different bands in the West.

Importance of Micro-Organisms in Rumen

There is a new concept which has been developed by scientists. We no longer think of nutrition of just the sheep, but design our wintering rations and our fattening rations in order to produce high activity in the micro-organisms present in the rumen or paunch of sheep. It has been demonstrated that this paunch is a veritable vitamin laboratory. We have known for a good many years that the

digestion of crude fiber found in the rumen of a sheep is almost entirely dependent upon the action of the rumen micro-organisms to this fiber since the sheep produces no enzyme capable of digesting the fibrous ingredients of a ration.

Recently it has been shown that by feeding salt containing one ounce of cobalt sulfate per 100 pounds of salt, the number of micro-organisms in the paunch is greatly increased. If a minute amount of cobalt sulfate is injected into the blood stream in a physiological salt solution, no increase in the rumen micro-organisms is produced.

Cobalt Studies

At the Wisconsin Experiment Station they are studying the effect of low cobalt diets on the vitamin synthesizing powers of the rumen. Some sheep get cobalt and others do not, and through artificial openings into the paunch known as rumen fistulae the synthetic process in the paunch can be followed. At Wisconsin the results seem to show that vitamin B₁₂ production is limited under cobalt deficiency. B₁₂ is correlated very nicely with inclusion of cobalt, or the injection of cobalt into sheep. The Wisconsin workers have tested the rumen contents of sheep by feeding it to young chicks, and they get remarkable growth from the paunch contents of animals fed cobalt, and they can get about the same kind of a response when they use B₁₂ concentrates or the injection of B₁₂.

Use of Vitamin B₁₂

We also know that protein supplements or feeds containing adequate amounts of

proteins of the right quality, have a beneficial effect upon these micro-organisms. Furthermore, it has been shown recently that many of the B-complex vitamins can be synthesized in the paunch of a properly fed sheep, and these vitamins in turn are deposited in the flesh. Among them is the vitamin B₁₂, known as the anti-pernicious anemia vitamin, which along with folic acid, has been so effectively used in humans, and only recently it has been demonstrated that the vitamin B₁₂ is one of the fractions of the much publicized animal protein factor.

The animal protein factor, as it is commonly called, seems to render proteins in a ration more effective; and as we learn more about it, its judicious use will help us stretch the protein supply available for livestock feeding. Here we have an example of the sheep not only being an economic factor, but a synthetic laboratory contributing to the welfare of humankind.

It is through the action of the micro-organisms in the paunch that urea can be utilized. The microbes use this synthetic chemical and build from it a bacterial protein in the right environment, and this protein later can be utilized by the sheep in its own protein metabolism.

Urea as a Nitrogen Source

At the Oklahoma Experiment Station it has been demonstrated that sheep can use nitrogen to replace at least a portion of the nitrogen contained in the protein commonly fed in protein supplements. Urea nitrogen is utilized and stored by the sheep, and at least 25 percent, and up to 50 percent, of the normal allowance of protein can be replaced by urea—providing a readily usable carbohydrate is included in the ration.

By mixing 75 pounds of cottonseed meal, 4 pounds of urea, 10 pounds of blackstrap molasses, and 11 pounds of grain or hominy feed, a pellet can be formed which contains the equivalent of 25 percent of protein. Pellets containing the equivalent of 50 percent protein contain 10 pounds of blackstrap molasses, 50 pounds of cottonseed meal, 8 pounds of urea, and 32 pounds of grain or hominy.

When properly fed, urea is not toxic, nor does it interfere with the utilization of calcium and phosphorus. Feeding urea does not alter the utilization of vitamin A in the feed, nor its storage in the liver.

Urea then is a possible source of nitrogen for sheep when protein supplements become high priced. By using urea, other protein supplements may be released to

use for swine and poultry, greatly extending our available supply of protein supplements for balancing livestock rations.

About 25 years ago it was observed that mature sheep and other ruminants are less exacting than single stomach animals in their demands for high quality proteins. They could take proteins of low biological values and reconstruct them through the action of the micro-organisms in the paunch to produce proteins of high quality. It is only recently that we have been able to explain this phenomenon on the basis of what goes on in the rumen of the sheep.

Research on Basic Nutritional Requirements of Sheep

At the University of Illinois, research is under way with synthetic milk to raise newborn lambs. This is a fundamental study aimed at determining the basic nutritional requirements of sheep. The necessity for frequent feedings at first, and the need for company for the lamb to maintain sound condition, complicate the problem.

Two lambs were raised, both of which received for a few days the early milk, or colostrum, from their dams. A period of approximately 100 days on a "synthetic milk" diet has produced favorable results.

One of the lambs was on a diet considered complete. The other received the same diet without riboflavin.

The lamb on the riboflavin deficient diet made a slight gain, but then failed to gain for about three weeks, after which time, at the age of about two months, it started to gain at the same rate as the lamb on the complete diet. Both lambs failed to gain as fast as similar lambs raised on their dams during the same period of time.

This technique offers good promise for a detailed study of the pre-rumination nutrition in newborn lambs.

Effectiveness of Phenothiazine Salt Mixtures

The feeding of phenothiazine salt mixtures according to Dr. Willman at Cornell University, has reduced remarkably the amount of scouring or diarrhea that is often seen in both ewes and lambs. This treatment has not only reduced the farm burden in the lamb crop, but has enabled the lambs to make a greater rate of gain after they were placed in dry lot, in comparison with the lambs that were not given access to this salt mixture during the grazing season. They were fed their phenothiazine at the rate of one pound to fifteen

pounds of salt and the consumption per head has averaged from one-quarter to one-half pound of phenothiazine per month per head. Some of the phenothiazine is excreted as a dye in the urine, and this dye causes the urine to turn red and stains the wool. The staining is not serious under range conditions.

At the Kentucky Experiment Station test flocks were carried on mixtures of salt and phenothiazine, and the study is in its 6th year. The result indicates an approximate six percent increase in the number of lambs raised per 100 ewes since the early war years.

DDT has been used in treating sheep, and we have definite evidence that it moth-proofs wool. Benzyl hexachloride used for controlling mange and lice, has been accused of imparting metallic flavors to the lamb carcass. Perhaps the more recent forms of benzyl hexachloride will overcome this difficulty.

Wintering Ewe Lambs

By JOHN A. STOEHR & CLAIR E. TERRILL
U. S. Department of Agriculture*

EWE lambs will usually gain more weight during their first winter if they are fed grain or concentrate supplement in addition to alfalfa hay. Work at the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station has shown that better feeding of ewe lambs during the first winter resulted in greater lamb production in their first lambing year.

The object of this study was to determine the effect, on the lifetime fleece and body weights and lamb production, of feeding a small amount of grain to ewe lambs wintered on alfalfa hay.

A total of 56 Targhee, 44 Columbia, 70 Corriedale and 212 Rambouillet ewe lambs was divided as equally as possible into 2 groups. One group received approximately one-fourth pound of whole oats per head daily from January 10 to April 11, 1941. The other group received no grain supplement. Thus the group fed grain received about 23 pounds of oats per head during the 92-day period. Both groups were fed as much alfalfa hay, of only fair quality, as they would readily clean up. This amounted to about 4 pounds per head per day.

The ewe lambs were weighed individually on January 10 and April 11, 1941, at shearing time and about June 1 and at culling time in October. Subsequently their lambs were born each year in April

*United States Sheep Experiment Station and Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory, Dubois, Idaho.

and May. Lambing was in sheds during the first part of April and was on the range in the latter part of April and in May as soon as range feed was available. Their lambs were weaned at an average age of about 130 days.

At the end of the 92-day period the group fed grain averaged 92.3 pounds in body weight, or 13.5 pounds heavier than the group not fed grain. The group fed grain averaged 6.0 pounds heavier at shearing and 4.8 pounds heavier at culling in the fall than the other group. Fleece weights were slightly heavier for the group fed grain, with an advantage of 0.23 pound of grease fleece weight and 0.09 pound of clean fleece weight. A slightly higher proportion were culled from the group that was not fed grain.

Lifetime (2-6 years) lamb production was slightly greater for the group not fed grain. This was true at each year of age except for 5-year-olds. Fleece and body weights at 2 years of age averaged slightly greater for the group fed grain, the advantages being 0.2 and 2.7 pounds respectively.

It appears from this test that, under conditions at Dubois, there was no gain in later lamb production from supplemental feeding of grain to ewe lambs although this resulted in a definite advantage in body weight at yearling age. The slight advantages in fleece weight of the group fed grain would not compensate for the added cost of the grain. The grain feeding may have reduced hay consumption but data are not available on this point.

ishment in making experiments for them and the wool growers at great cost to himself. We have never known anyone who was as willing to lend a helping hand to our industry without regard to cost as he did. No one has ever given us such wholehearted, practical and generous cooperation.

He was one of the finest, most brilliant and most considerate men we have ever known. He was loved by his legion of friends, associates and his employees.

He was a devoted son, husband and father and led an ideal family life. He is survived by his mother, one sister, one brother, his devoted wife, Elizabeth Allen Forstmann, two sons, Peter and Richard, and a daughter, Anna Louise.

We have seen Curt Forstmann in many kinds of company. He made friends more quickly than anyone we know and he retained their friendship.

I personally feel a deep sense of personal loss in Mr. Forstmann's death. He was not only a loyal and true friend of many years' standing, but he was always ready to do anything to help improve the lot of the wool growers.

His place will never be filled in the hearts of those of us who loved him. He was an outstanding character whose useful life was cut short just three weeks before he would have observed his 43rd birthday.

He left a heritage of which his family and friends will always be proud.

A great man and our great friend has gone.—J. B. Wilson

W. B. RICE

THE sudden death of Regional Forester Rice of the intermountain forest area shocked a wide circle of friends and associates. He died January 13th while returning by train from McCall, Idaho. He had attended a forest fire control review at that point with Washington officials and collapsed near Weiser, Idaho.

W. B. (Ben) Rice entered the Forest Service in 1912 and worked up through many positions to become regional forester of the Intermountain Region with headquarters in Ogden, Utah, on January 1, 1944. His work as administrator of forest resources is highly praised by National Forest officials. He also had many friends among the livestockmen in the region under his jurisdiction.

Mr. Rice was born in Ohio on May 21, 1888 and was a graduate of the Yale University of Forestry. His widow survives.

In Memoriam

MR. AND MRS. HEBER MOON

UTAH wool growers were shocked and deeply saddened by the death of Mr. and Mrs. Heber Moon of Duchesne in an automobile accident on January 23rd. Mr. Moon and his wife were on their way to the Utah convention when their car skidded some 250 feet to crash sideways into a State Highway Commission car about three miles west of Park City, Utah. Both apparently were killed instantly and the two State employees in the highway car were injured.

Mr. Moon was a director of the Utah Wool Growers Association and had been a sheep rancher most of his life, operating in Hanna until three years ago when he moved to Duchesne.

CURT E. FORSTMANN

IN the untimely death of Curt E. Forstmann, on January 18th, the wool growers of this country lost one of their best friends.

Mr. Forstmann was president and active head of the Forstmann Woolen Company. He represented the seventh generation of Forstmans in the woolen manufacturing industry and made the name of Forstmann Woolens synonymous with sterling and silver or solid gold. The goods manufactured by Forstmann were recognized not only in this country but throughout the world as typifying the very best woolens.

Mr. Forstmann was probably the most progressive manufacturer in his line in the entire country, and, above all, he never sacrificed quality. He never used anything but virgin wool and while he used some of the specialty fibers, as vicuna, camel's hair and alpaca, they were always the best quality and all of his fabrics carried the "Virgin Wool" label.

Like his father before him, Mr. Forstmann always took the position that wool growers must have a protective tariff on wool. His position on the wool tariff was remarkable because his firm, due to the type of goods manufactured, used more of the choicest grades of Australian fine wool than any other manufacturer in the country; yet he insisted that wool should have a protective tariff.

When the Reciprocal Trade Agreements were up for discussion, he was the staunchest ally the wool growers had. His brief filed with the Congressional committees was a masterpiece, and he again pointed out that wool must have an adequate tariff duty.

Curt Forstmann was more responsible for the enactment of the Wool Products Labeling Act than anyone else in this country. He devoted much of his time to this cause, made the resources of his manufacturing organization available to us and, without his inspired leadership, the passage of the legislation would not have been possible.

He always cooperated with the Department of Agriculture and the defense estab-

Utah's Forty-Third

**Large Attendance — Good Speakers
Make Successful Convention**



Utah Officers: Vice President M. V. Hatch of Panguitch (left) and President Don Clyde of Heber City.

UTAH made up in its 43rd annual convention for the fact that they had to let the 42nd one go by the boards on account of the storm emergency last January. Close to 1000 sheepmen and their wives gathered in the Lafayette Ballroom of the Hotel Utah for the opening of the 43rd event on January 24th and incidentally made its rafters ring with the community sing that has become an integral part of every Utah wool growers' gathering under the leadership of E. J. Kirkham.

Undoubtedly part of the good convention feeling was created by the fact that thus far this winter Nature has not been too severe. President Don Clyde in his annual address compared this season with that of the record- and heart-breaking one of last year and expressed the appreciation of Utah wool growers for the help that had come to them from various groups last year. The vital part Secretary James A. Hooper and the Utah Wool Growers Association had played in the relief and rescue work was also noted. Forest grazing difficulties, big game problems, progress in predatory animal control, and wool and lamb marketing were also covered by President Clyde in his usual fearless manner. He also touched upon the danger of big government and the trend toward a welfare state.

Factors affecting the lamb market were treated very capably by Seth Shaw, meat specialist of Safeway Stores; D. A. Broadbent, assistant director of the Experiment Station at the Utah State Agricultural College at Logan; Don Kenney, manager of the Salt Lake Union Stockyards, and Homer Davison, vice president of the American Meat Institute.

Dr. Karl D. Butler, president of the

American Institute of Cooperation, Washington, D. C., brought out some interesting facts on animal agriculture, pointing up specifically that in the matter of nutrition stockmen feed their livestock better than most human beings are fed. If this faulty human nutrition were corrected, Dr. Butler stated, it would be of tremendous value in improving the economy of the country and particularly agricultural and livestock enterprises.

Activities in Washington in connection with the wool program were handled by C. J. Fawcett, manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, Boston. In his discussion, Mr. Fawcett said that all signs at present pointed to a strong 1950 wool market.

Association members approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors that dues be increased from one to two cents per head of stock sheep.

The Lafayette Ballroom and the entire mezzanine floor of Hotel Utah were taxed to capacity to take care of the crowd that gathered for the dinner-dance and floor show. The winners in the auxiliary's style-show last fall were featured in the beautiful wool garments of their own making, and dancing was enjoyed by everyone following a floor show. But the conversation piece the next day was: "Weren't those lamb chops delicious!"

Don Clyde of Heber City was re-elected president of the Utah group for the twelfth consecutive time. M. V. Hatch of Panguitch succeeds Douglas Clark as vice president and James A. Hooper was retained as secretary-treasurer.

The resolutions adopted by the Utah Association in their closing convention:

Believed much has been accomplished to insure close cooperation through the decentralization of the Bureau of Land Management so that problems in public land use can now be discussed and settled at the district level.

Commended the system of advisory boards from the district level to the National Council and recommended that authority be granted to the Council for the call of the meeting at the discretion of its chairman and committee members and that provisions be made for executive meetings of said Council with only Council members present.

Requested the officers of the Utah Wool Growers Association call to the attention of the Congressional Appropriation Committee and the Bureau of the Budget the fact that the Nicholson Plan provided that funds would be made available for the administration of grazing with 70 percent of the cost of administration paid by the stockmen and 30 percent by the Federal Government as a proper basis for the interests involved.

Recommended that the Public Lands Committee develop an intelligent program which will permit grazing on those areas which are not being put to higher use.

Opposed acquisition of land by purchase or otherwise by Federal, State or County Government except in extreme emergencies.

Recommended that the officers of the Utah Wool Growers Association cooperate with the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers Association and the Utah State Farm Bureau to develop the leasing of State lands within grazing districts based on the carrying capacity so that they may be under the control of the grazing districts of the Bureau of Land Management and the rental included in the fee charged for grazing Federal land. Under no circumstances should State land be leased to other than the owner of the permit or the allotment, if it is his desire to lease it.

Requested that the BLM determine the number of big game consistent with the forage, the permitted livestock and the economic condition of the State; that there now be established the number of big game that shall be permitted to graze on the public domain; that there be no transplanting of big game except the same be approved on a State level after the determination of the local Advisory Board and that the provisions under Regional Order No. 61 dated October 28, 1949, be re-instated on a regional level and that the BLM adhere strictly to the order.

Favored intelligent reseedling of the public domain.

Opposed airplane pellet reseedling inasmuch as the experiment proved an "utter failure."

Requested that the BLM develop a program for the eradication of all burrs and poisonous weeds and further requested that the State Department of Agriculture and the State Road Commission cooperate in the spraying and otherwise destroying of burrs and other noxious weeds on trails and highways.

Recommended the Utah officers, in case of the passage of the Anderson bill which calls for the expenditure of \$193,000,000 for reseedling, contact Utah Congressional delegates in Washington in an effort to get a fair share of the appropriation.

Commended the National Forest representatives for their position and statement during various conferences along the following lines: "Range improvement will continue and more re-seeding projects will be developed. Non-use permits will be reinstated to the permittee as fast as the range will permit. It is not the policy of the U. S. National Forest Service to eliminate grazing. Ten-year permits will be issued upon the expiration of the present term permit to the full carrying capacity of the range. Permittees will be invited to accompany the range examiners wherever possible when ranges are to be examined. No general reduction percentages will be made . . ."

Asked the enactment of a basic Forest Service law to encompass the following: Continuity or perpetuity for grazing; favorable contractual relations; negotiability of permits; reasonable charges; arbitration boards independent of the Service.

Requested that a State Forest Arbitration Committee be developed.

Condemned the principle in H. R. 5839 which would permit forest reserve funds to be deposited directly to the U. S. Forest

Service; all funds should be paid to the U. S. Treasury and appropriations be made by the Congress.

Urged that contemplated livestock reductions be held in abeyance until the effect of the re-seeding program can be examined and appraised.

Stood 100 percent for good range management.

Requested that the present 30-mill levy be maintained; that a committee be appointed to investigate the possibility of reducing the cost of the predatory animal program and study the program of adjoining States.

Asked that the \$6 bounty on coyotes and bobcats be maintained and that the bounty on cougars be raised to \$35.

Commended the Department of Agriculture in Utah and Mr. Crofts for the fine work being done in behalf of the bounty control program; Mr. Morris, supervisor of the predatory animal control program, and the Fish and Game Department.

Recommended that every effort be put forth in the interest of the use of domestic wool.

Endorsed the Agricultural Act of 1949 and concurred in the program as recommended by the National Wool Growers Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Wool Marketing Corporation and the Pacific Wool Growers, together with other interested farm groups as submitted to the Production and Marketing Administration on January 16, 1950.

Commended the educational work of the Extension Service and recommended the service of the county agents for further educational programs in the preparation of wool and lambs for market.

Commended the stockyards for their reports of market prices by radio and newspaper and requested that the reports be continued but in more detail.

Commended the efforts of their officers

and various agricultural associations in their effort to secure freight rate reductions under I.C.C. Docket No. 28863, and recommended that every effort be developed for the early publication of rates on wool and mohair ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Requested that Utah Association officials impress upon the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the American Meat Institute the necessity of marketing lamb through outstanding salesmanship rather than just selling it.

Suggested that all agencies responsible for releasing livestock crop statistics confine their releases to basic statistics and refrain from forecasting market trends and that the program be abolished if not carried out in this manner.

Commended chain stores and all other concerns who have assisted in the promotion of lamb.

Opposed the continued effort of certain groups to nullify the tariff on wool through importation of so-called Cordova and similar wools on a tariff substantially lower than that authorized by the Congress of the United States.

Recommended that the Utah Association take steps to carry on an extensive advertising and public relations program concerning the livestock industry.

Commended the Women's Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers Association in popularizing lamb and wool.

Commended the efforts of the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the American Meat Institute and hoped they would put forth every effort in the development of a market for lamb.

Approved the deduction of \$2.50 per car or one cent per head on every lamb marketed by a producer in 1950, and the resolution passed by the convention of the National Wool Growers Association regarding this

AT THE UTAH CONVENTION

Matthias Allred of Fountain Green, Clyde Collard of Bountiful and W. O. Collard of Huntsville.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hatch of Woods Cross and S. I. Greer of the Inland Wool Company.



John Armstrong, said to be the oldest man in Sanpete County still in the sheep business; Ruel Christensen, and Mrs. John Armstrong, all of Ephraim.

Emory C. Smith of Salt Lake City and B. H. Stringham of Vernal.

Charles C. Anderson of Glendale; Douglas Clark of Cedar City; Roland S. Esplin of Mt. Carmel and Cecil Pugh of Kanab.

All Photos by E. E. Marsh

deduction. (See Resolution No. 27, Platform and Program, Page 60, January Wool Grower).

Asked that a thorough study be made of the big game problem.

Endorsed the law creating the Big Game Control Board and favored its retention.

Recommended the abolishment of the so-called buck law and that the law be changed to permit the hunter to kill a deer of either sex.

Asked for more friendly relations and more cooperation between livestock men and sportsmen.

Expressed solemn conviction that the strength and progress of America depends upon the re-establishment of unhampered free enterprise and pledged the membership of the Utah Association to work actively toward the restoration and continuation of this indispensable principle in our American way of life.

Opposed trade agreements destroying the effectiveness of tariff.

Opposed the Brannan Plan.

Supported the principle involved in Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act stressing the use of import fees or quotas where imports threaten the operation of domestic price support programs.

Recommended that the present Congress repeal most or all of the excise taxes which were imposed as war emergency measures.

Commended the Utah State Tax Commission and the officers of the Association for the negotiation of an intelligent formula in the determination of the assessed valuation of sheep by using the ten-year moving average.

Recommended that the Utah Wool Growers endorse the 2-cent dues assessment and that the officers be urged to use their efforts to cooperate with the National Association.

Extended sincere thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to the alleviation of the catastrophic storms of 1948-49.

Wool Cost Minor Factor In Retail Garment Price

Wool Bureau Analysis of Man's \$50 Suit Shows Fiber Cost to Be Less Than 11 Percent

THE wool used in a man's \$50 suit represents less than 11 percent of the retail selling price, a study released by The Wool Bureau reveals. The other 89 percent represents manufacturing, labor, and distribution to the consumer.

The Wool Bureau stated that "although the price of cotton had advanced 113 percent since 1941, rayon 40 percent, and all raw commodities 92 percent, the price of wool has gone up only 40 percent." Moreover, its proportion of the retail price of a wool garment is even less today than it was before the war. Thus, minor fluctuations in the price of wool, either up or down, cannot be expected to affect significantly the price which the public must pay for its wool clothing.

The suit analyzed by The Wool Bureau was a two-piece worsted, weight 13-14 ounces, requiring 3.3 yards of cloth made from fine 62's/64's wool top. A good standard grade of labor was used. Through information supplied by leading men's fabric manufacturers, the Bureau was able to determine the cost of the clean wool required. It amounted to \$5.45, or only 10.9 percent of the retail price.

A similar analysis was recently made in Australia where the cost of wool in a three-piece suit retailing at \$44 was only \$5.25, or less than 12 percent of the total price.

According to The Wool Bureau analysis, to make the fabric and manufacture the suit takes 49.1 percent of the retail price. Of this total, 16.9 percent represents fabric production—including payrolls, government taxes, employee welfare, overhead, profits, and the cost of materials other than the wool fiber. Costs of manufacturing the suit, including all items of labor, taxes, and raw materials other than wool, represent 32.2 percent of the retail price of the garment.

Labor costs alone absorb 28.3 percent of the final price, and this does not count salaries paid out at the retail level. This figure also includes indirect labor costs represented by employee welfare and Federal and State taxes. At the textile manufacturer's level, these taxes add about 8 percent to the labor bill. At the suit manufacturer's level, they add between 15 and 16 percent. Translated into the retail price structure of a man's suit, these taxes amount

Lamb Dish of the Month



Lamb Choplets
Banana Bacon Broil
French Fried Potatoes
Buttered Lima Beans
Muffin : Butter or Margarine
Perfection Salad
Pineapple Upside-down Cake
Coffee Milk

LAMB CHOPLETS

1 lamb breast, weighing 1½ pounds
1½ pounds ground lamb
Salt and pepper

Have meat retailer remove breast bone.
Cut a pocket from end of breast and stuff

very tightly with ground lamb. Chill thoroughly. Slice between ribs to make individual servings. Braise or broil.

To braise: Brown in hot fat on both sides, season and add one-fourth cup water. Cover tightly and allow to simmer about 45 minutes.

To broil: Place on broiler rack so that surface of meat is three inches from source of heat. Brown on one side. Season, turn and brown on second side, allowing seven to eight minutes per side. Only one turning is necessary. Serves 6 to 8.

Department of Home Economics
NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD

to approximately \$1.50 of the \$50 suit, or an amount equal to nearly 30 percent of the basic wool cost.

Commenting on the fact that manufacturers, in their search for lowered costs have resorted to substitute fabrics cheaper than wool, The Wool Bureau said: "The fibers used in clothing fabrics determine the wear and service of apparel, and the consumer should understand that when he purchases apparel made of substitute or synthetic fibers he is paying for the same labor and production costs as he would for 100 percent wool clothing.

"The production of wool fabrics is devoted to preserving the indispensable qualities of resilience, strength, softness, durability and protectiveness in the raw wool. The manufacture of a wool suit is an amazingly complex operation. Over 150 different steps are taken to make a man's jacket; more than half that number to make trousers. The skills of hundreds of experts, ranging from a designer in the five-figure earning bracket down to cutters, pressers, and other artisans, are called into play. The major fiber in the outer fabric is only one of many used. Linings are commonly made of cotton, rayon, or twill, pocketings of silesia. Coat fronts employ hair canvas and haircloth, and there are collar interlinings and tape of linen, soft cotton padding, and, of course, buttons. All these add to the cost.

"Adding the 10.9 percent which wool represents in the retail price to the 49.1 percent of manufacturing and processing costs, there still remains 40 percent which accounts for the cost of distribution to the consumer. This also includes the cost of

maintenance and operation of the retail store, salaries and taxes as well as profits."

The Bureau concludes that inasmuch as wool costs are a minor factor in the retail price, and because labor costs are relatively

rigid today, the chief hope for reduced prices "appears to lie in increasing the efficiency of the production and distribution processes. This is a challenge to the clothing industry."

Utah L.S. P.C.A. Meeting



The Utah Livestock P.C.A. luncheon on the Hotel Utah Roof Garden.

"I was certainly thrilled with the meeting this morning," we overheard a stockholder of the Utah Livestock Production Credit Association say following its annual meeting on January 26th at the Hotel Utah. "I do some free-lance borrowing on some other enterprises and I realize better probably than others just what these P.C.A.'s mean to the stockmen in their financing."

That he expressed the opinion of the majority of the stockmen whose financing is handled through the P.C.A.'s is undoubtedly true.

While at present they handle a considerable volume of short-term credit requirements, the P.C.A.'s were originally set up to handle long-term loans of farmers and livestockmen which other financial agencies were unable to carry, especially in times of emergency.

Officials of the Utah Livestock P.C.A. had a very excellent report to give its stockholders. Net earnings for the calendar year were shown as \$34,559.01, which were distributed as follows: Added to reserves, \$11,043.12; patronage refunds, \$10,352.39; dividends declared, \$13,163.50.

The net worth of the association was as follows on December 31, 1949: Voting (B) stock, member owned, \$193,810.00; non-voting (A) stock, member owned, \$69,-

460.00; accumulated reserves, \$332,811.06, making total reserves and member capital, \$596,081.06.

All of the stock is owned by member stockholders; that is, the association has paid off its capital indebtedness to the Government as many of the other P.C.A. groups have done. Also, it is of interest to note that it makes no loan service charge.

Stockholders in the association include 119 B stockholders, or those having current loans from the association, and 57 A stockholders who have retained their stock after re-payment of their loans.

The integrity of the borrowers of the organization was shown by the fact that since its inception, losses had amounted to only slightly over \$19,000 and of this amount, over \$12,000 has been recovered, which leaves the total losses about \$7,000.00.

An announcement of interest was that the association has purchased a site at First South and First West in Salt Lake City, on which they expect to erect their own office building in the near future.

D. H. Adams of Layton was re-elected president, and Delbert Chipman of American Fork, vice president. Those two, with W. S. Hatch of Woods Cross, Francis A. Probst of Midway, and B. H. Stringham of Vernal, constitute the Board of Directors. The secretary-treasurer is Arthur Smith and the field representative, F. H. Gunn.

DON'T FORGET

Midnight (Eastern Standard Time) March 31, 1950 closes the 1949 wool program. If you want the Commodity Credit Corporation to handle your last year's clip, it must be tendered to them before that time.

In extending the 1949 wool program the C.C.C. has ruled, according to the Federal Register of January 11th: "In connection with the foregoing extension, notice is hereby given that all wool shorn or pulled on or before December 31, 1949, will not be eligible for the 1950 wool price support program; and, if commingled with 1950 wool, may render the entire lot ineligible for that program."

Development of the Targhee Sheep^{*}

By JULIUS E. NORDBY, Director
U. S. Sheep Experiment Station



A group of Targhee ewes at about 13 months of age.

THE early history of the western range sheep industry is essentially one of fine-wool interests. Throughout the pioneering period of sheep husbandry in the West, emphasis was placed primarily on wool, and the interest in "mutton" was quite secondary to wool as a market product. Shortly after the turn of the last century, however, a demand was beginning to develop for "lamb." Within a relatively short period of time, an industry that had been emphasizing wool over "mutton" was rapidly beginning to place "lamb" ahead of wool, particularly in the heavy feed-producing areas. The opportunity for the rugged, whitefaced crossbred ewe, with her high potential capacity for lamb and wool production, was definitely at hand.

The extensive increase in irrigable lands, and their production of vast quantities of alfalfa hay and other winter feeds for sheep, in a measure preceded, yet, in general, paralleled the development of this epic change in range sheep husbandry. In the Intermountain and some Pacific Coast State areas where crossbred range sheep production became an established practice, sheep husbandry was rapidly

changing from winters of "roughing" to winters of relative plenty; from a pioneering economy to a modern economy in which skill and thrift in production, and increased concern for marketing, became more vitally essential as the industry assumed growing importance in the national economy.

Extensive adjustments in feeding and management and also in breeding had to be made. Fundamental changes always bring problems, and this period was no exception. The ranchman had some general precedents to follow in adjusting his operations to changed feed and marketing conditions, but, in the production of the "new" crossbred ewe he was a pioneer on an uncharted course. The economy of his industry called for large ewes with maximum capacity for lamb and wool production,—ewes which would do a satisfactory job of withstanding the rigors of rather violent climatic reversals and greatly varying feed supplies, and whose cost of operation would be in agreement with the economies which the new lamb industry appeared rather certain to offer.

There were no such ewes available, however, in any of the breeds known to the range country. They had to be produced.

The ranchman proceeded to adjust himself to his new opportunity by crossing well-established whitefaced breeds, — a practice which became the most extensive of its kind in the annals of animal husbandry, involving today upwards of eight to ten million head of whitefaced crossbred range sheep. These serve as the basis for the early fat lamb industry in the West, and, to a considerable extent, east of the range area. In his effort, however, to solve immediate problems the ranchman created new long-time problems, and it is to these new long-time problems that attention will be directed in this discussion.

Source of Whitefaced Crossbreds

The term "crossbred" when applied to range sheep has reference to the progeny resulting from the crossing of coarse-wool and fine-wool whitefaced breeds. These are commonly referred to as whitefaced crossbreds, or, in the range country, merely as "crossbreds." The cross has, in general, been effected by breeding purebred coarse-wool rams of the Lincoln, Cotswold or Romney breeds to fine-wool range ewes, and also to purebred or near-purebred fine-wool ewes. Purebred fine-wool rams have

^{*}Reprinted from "Stabilizing Wool and Body Type in Whitefaced Crossbred Sheep" 1943.

also been bred to purebred coarse-wool ewes. The essential difference in the outcome of these crosses has varied somewhat in accordance with the size and type of sheep that were used in the original crosses and in the selections which have been made. The lambs produced from mating coarse-wool rams to ewes of Rambouillet breeding were more growthy, and developed into larger sheep than the progeny of coarse-wool rams and ewes of Merino breeding.

More Complicated Crossbreds Appeared

The population of crossbred ewes increased so rapidly that it appeared impossible, impractical or both to limit the requirement to straight crossbreds. Moreover, the straight crossbred did not appear to meet with universal acceptance, as many ranchmen preferred to operate with crossbreds that had a larger percentage of fine-wool breeding than the straight crossbred carried. This was not necessarily a matter of arbitrary choice, but rather an effort to produce crossbred ewes that were more suitable to less productive range areas than were those obtained from the original crossing of the two separate breeds. This appeared possible by increasing the percentage of fine-wool influence and thus insuring more hardiness and a relatively "tight" fleece that would not "brush." The only means available of increasing the fine-wool influence was to breed the first cross ewes back to fine-wool rams. But, there was no breed of sheep available that produced rams for maintaining the characteristics of this second cross. Hence, in order to make use of the progeny of first-cross ewes and fine-wool rams as flock replacement ewes, the only choice was to breed them to fine-wool rams or coarse-wool rams, and the respective progenies of these two crosses were very different. The problems which faced the ranchmen in producing replacement ewes from the first cross ewe gave rise to some very active exploratory practices in crossbreeding that were subsequently characterized by more or less confusion, which left much to be desired in flock type stability.

Backcross or "Comeback"

The backcrossing method involved the breeding of fine-wool rams to first-cross ewes. This cross produced the three-quarter - fine-wool-one-quarter-coarse-wool cross commonly known as the "comeback." The typical comeback is a little smaller than the straight crossbred and produces, in general, half-blood wool. It is also somewhat harder and has a little longer pro-

ductive life than the straight crossbred. The comeback ewes fit into many areas where feed is not plentiful enough for optimum production by the straight crossbred. Since there were no three-quarter rams available, however, comeback replacement ewes could be produced only by mating the fine-wool rams to the first-cross ewes, thus requiring two sheep generations for the production of the comeback. This gave rise to some perplexing problems. On the basis of a 100 percent lamb crop, the foundation ewes produced 50 ewe lambs for each 100 ewes bred (sexes equally divided.) Suppose 36 of these matured into serviceable first-cross yearlings. When these were mated to a fine-wool ram for the production of comeback lambs, perhaps out of the 18 ewe lambs born, ten to twelve became creditable yearlings. A system of breeding which required 100 foundation ewes and four years for the production of ten to twelve comeback ewes, for which there were no suitable rams of an established breed available for maintaining the type desired, proved too expensive, annoying and time-consuming.

Very few ranchmen had the courage to systematically pursue this method of comeback ewe production for any length of time. But there was a definite place and need for comeback ewes. Hence, out of the desire to produce at least an approximation of the comeback type, there arose multiple methods, or lack of well-defined methods, of alternately backcrossing the flocks of varied crossbred influence to

fine-wool and coarse-wool rams. This was done in hope of maintaining in the flock a reasonable balance of the coarse and fine-wool breeding desired. No well-defined and unified standard for wool and body type was in evidence in flocks bred in this manner, and the general outcome of the effort to simulate the comeback type, except in a few well-organized flocks, was a scrambled admixture of fine and coarse-wool breeding. The net result was an aggravated disturbance of uniformity in wool and body type. No one flock could be cited as typical of the degree of coarse-wool influence in any other flock, and many of them produced all grades of wool from fine to low-quarter or even braid, and too much variability in body type.

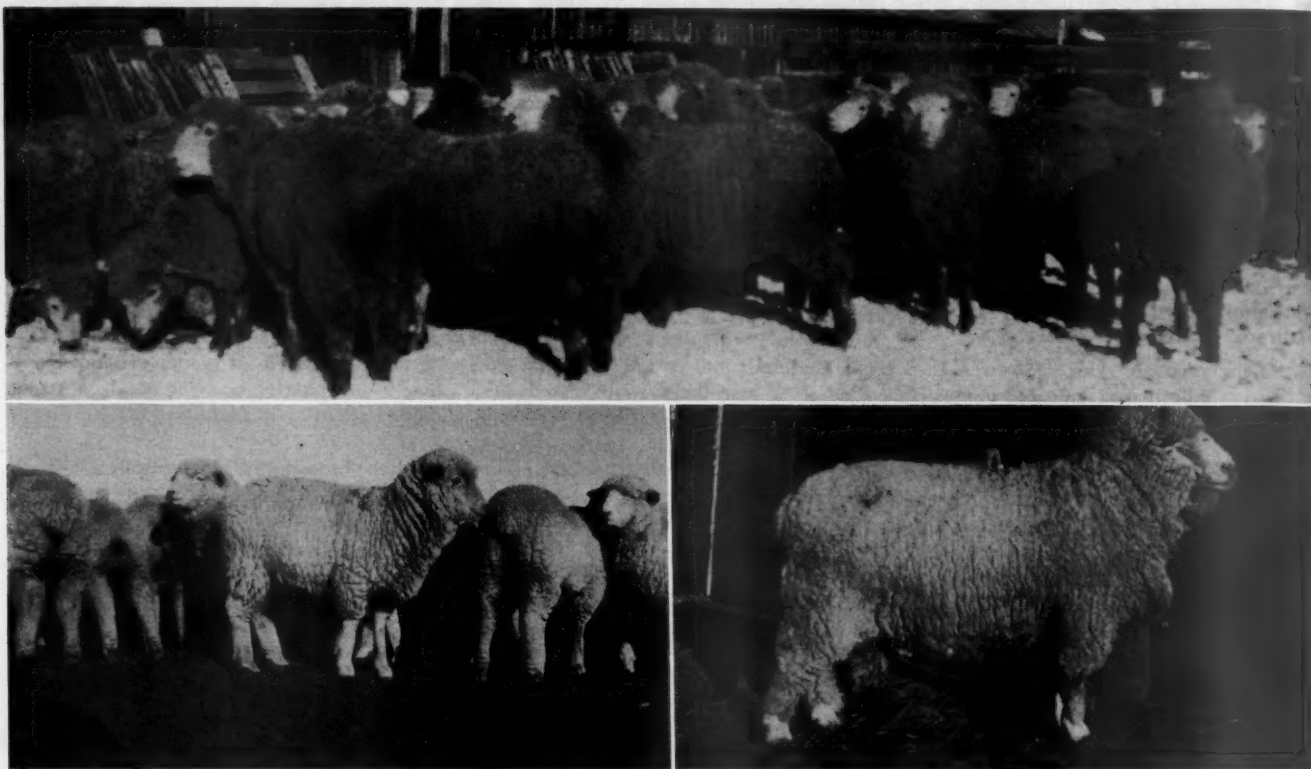
Further Crossbreeding Complications

While the whitefaced crossbred sheep industry of the West was very enterprising in the magnitude it assumed, and methods it used, it was unique insofar as it overlooked somewhat the inevitable need for paralleling the development of crossbred ewes with an adequate supply of suitable crossbred rams. It was rather natural that this would happen since there was little crystallized understanding with reference to just what characteristics a crossbred ram should have in body and wool type. Moreover, differences in environmental conditions did not make all areas equally suitable for one type of crossbred. Furthermore, trading in wool was on the "original bag" basis with major emphasis on esti-

(Continued from page 24)



These are first-and second-cross Targhee ewes in the Steve Thompson flock, Heppner, Oregon. They have been tagged. One band of Thompson ewes sheared 11.5 pounds of wool last spring and netted him \$5.99 per fleece through the Commodity Credit Corporation.



(Top) Targhee ewe lambs raised by Henry J. Yoppe. (Left) Hughes Livestock Co. range raised ewe lambs in December, 1949, 7½ months old. (Right) A three-year-old Targhee ram in the Leo Pfister flock.

To American Lamb and Wool Producers:

We wish accurately to inform the American sheep grower, feeder, packer and consumer of the Targhee breed of sheep.

The Targhee has been developed during a period of scientific application in U. S. agriculture when great advances have been made in animal and plant improvement. Today commercial crop production is assisted by recommended crop varieties that have been field tested for production. All over this country experiment stations have been improving and developing new varieties for adaptability, higher production, specific uses and disease resistance.

Experience and knowledge gained from breeding and selection in corn, dairy cattle, poultry, swine and other breeds of sheep have been invaluable to the Targhee breed.

One of the problems encountered in developing the Targhee was elimination of wool blindness and horns. During the generations matings were made for fleshing qualities on a dense fleeced sheep. Intense selection and culling resulted in a uniform, dense half blood fleece. Careful selection for mothering qualities has

produced a high tonnage of lamb for the lifetime of each ewe.

The uniformity of body type and fleece grade simplifies marketing of lamb and wool. The half blood and fine-medium fleeces supply a broad market demand for either original bag or high medium grade types. The deep, compact, low-set body makes a desirable carcass from either the feed lot or mother's milk. This body of thick natural fleshing is efficient in the feed lot and less wasteful on the butcher's block.

For many years the ideal of many rangemen has been a thick-bodied, open-faced, dense-fleeced sheep. This hardiness, with economy of operation and high production, was required of ranchers making a living on the range. U.S.D.A. scientists have devoted 24 years to accomplish this in the Targhee breed of sheep.

High-quality established flocks of purebred Targhee sheep in the U. S. are being bred by the following breeders.

We thank you.

HUGHES LIVESTOCK CO.
Stanford, Montana

LEO PFISTER
Node, Wyoming

STEVE THOMPSON
Heppner, Oregon

HENRY J. YOPPE
Livingston, Montana

(Advertisement)



Targhee ewe lambs, 10 months old, at U. S. Sheep Experiment Station.



A mixed group of Targhee Rams at U. S. Sheep Experiment Station.



U. S. Sheep Experiment Station Stud Ram No. T. 1002

Targhee Sheep

The Targhee breed of sheep was developed by the U.S.D.A. at Dubois, Idaho. The objective in developing this breed was to produce a true breeding sheep to meet the requirements of range sheepmen who bred crossbred ewes back to fine-wool rams producing a rugged, adapted three-quarters fine-wool type. This practice of comeback breeding was done to increase fleshing qualities and fertility, open faces and to produce larger fleeces on a hardy, dense-wooled sheep.

In 1926 U. S. Sheep Experiment Station scientists used select Rambouillet rams to mate with crossbred ewes of Corriedale x Lincoln-Rambouillet and Lincoln x Rambouillet breeding. From this original combination through rigid selection has come the Targhee breed.

We quote from U.S.D.A. report, A.H.D. No. 43, "Targhee Sheep and Their Place in Range Sheep Production," October, 1941: "The Targhee has been developed under range condi-

tions . . . The ranges upon which the Targhee has been developed vary from 5000 to 8500 feet in altitude—on or near the Targhee National Forest. The Targhee is a white-faced, polled sheep . . . The Targhee is compact in body type and has a broad, smooth, level back. The rump and leg of mutton are well developed. The sheep of this strain are moderately low-set, and have good bone and straight legs. Mature Targhee ewes shear an average of a little more than 11 pounds—with a staple of about 3 inches. The desirable market grade of wool as determined commercially is largely half blood. The Targhee lambs average about 80 pounds in weight at 140 days of age when produced on the range without grain. The lambs carry considerable thickness . . . The ewes are good mothers and handle uniformly well on the range."

For a copy of this publication or other information, write to the breeders or the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho.

(Advertisement)

mated shrinkage values and with little concern for graded contents, as that may have influenced price differentials. Market requirements at country points were relatively easy to satisfy, except for shrinkage, hence there was very little economic discipline to guide the producer in his choice of grade, and very little encouragement to package a graded, quality product.

The natural result of this definite lack of recognition of intrinsic value in the wool clip did not offer adequate compensation for improving the flocks, nor did it serve as adequate penalty against the further admixtures of breeding. The consequence was not only the rather free use of backcrossing to rams of the foundation breeds, but the use of first and second cross rams, and also rams with almost any combination of whitefaced breeding that it is possible to produce through interbreed and intergrade crossing.

As a result of this admixture of breeding it is often necessary, in the production of replacement ewes, to cut back 20 to 30 percent of the ewe lambs as feeders in order to have a fairly uniform band of prospective yearlings. When these are yearlings, often another cut of 10 to 20 percent should be made. If no culling is done before the yearling age, often the cut runs from 30 to 50 percent before a fair degree of uniformity is realized in wool and body type.

But the yield of wool was high and the wool was strong and generally well-grown. The sheep were rugged and capable of high production of lambs as well as wool. Under the circumstances the ranchman appeared to have done, in general, what seemed at the time most advantageous for him to do in his effort to make a livelihood from his enterprise. There appeared to have been no imminent and imperative economy to discipline the ranchman's concern for a stabilized, uniform product, particularly in wool trading. He was definitely producing for a "bulk" market.

The market improvement that has been made in western market lambs in the last 15 years on the other hand is worthy of note and can be attributed in part to more careful culling in crossbred ewe flocks for body type; in part to the vitalizing force of lamb pools in bringing about a better understanding of quality in lambs and its relation to a market that recognizes quality; and, of course, also in large part to the general use of high quality, blackfaced rams. But there have been no such organized efforts to increase the merchandising value of wool.

The Targhee A Comeback Type

The foundation of the Targhee was laid



First-cross Targhee ewes. These ewes will be three years old this spring. They have not been eye-tagged.

by the use of Corriedale, Lincoln and Rambouillet rams and Corriedale and Rambouillet ewes. Two basic combinations were made. Rambouillet rams were bred to Lincoln-Rambouillet first-cross ewes, and Rambouillet rams were also bred to ewes that were produced by mating Corriedale rams to Lincoln-Rambouillet first-cross ewes. Rams and ewes from these two combinations of breeding were carefully selected and interbred, and later developed into the Targhee.

Mature rams weigh about 200 pounds, and mature ewes average about 130 pounds in the fall before breeding. The mature ewes average a little more than 11 pounds of half-blood wool with a staple length of about 3 inches. Lambs average around 80 pounds at 140 days of age under range conditions.

Uniformity of Wool and Body Type

The results that have been accomplished in stabilizing the grade of wool in the Targhee should prove encouraging to the ranchman who is interested in producing half-blood wool. In 1942 the Targhee ewe fleeces were graded 94 percent half-blood and 6 percent three-eighths blood. The ram fleeces were graded 99 percent half-blood and 1 percent three-eighths blood.

In 1941 and 1942 about 3 percent of the ewe lambs were culled for fleece irregularities such as shaggy breech, short staple, hairy fleece, wool blindness and for other wool characteristics that were below the standard for stud ewes. Thirteen percent were culled because they were below the required standards for stud ewes in body type. Small size, a low topline, small bone, steepness in the rump, and wrinkles in the skin about the neck or body con-

stituted the main reasons for culling. Not all animals in breeds that have been established for a long time meet stud requirements.

Cattlemen's Convention

AT Miami, Florida, January 4th to 7th, the American National Livestock Association, in what is reported as one of the largest of its annual meetings (1150 registrations) elected Loren C. Bamert of Ione, California, as president for 1950. Sam C. Hyatt of Hyattville, Wyoming, was made first vice president and F. E. Mollin was elected executive secretary.

The five second vice presidents include: J. M. Cartwright, Phoenix, Arizona; C. K. Malone, Choteau, Montana; Jack Mansfield, Vega, Texas; Charles Myers, Evanston, Wyoming and Claude Olson, Ludlow, South Dakota.

Resolutions adopted by the cattlemen:

Pledged diligence and active work toward the re-establishment and maintenance of free and competitive enterprises and the defeat of "falacious philosophies that are be-guiling our country into socialism."

Opposed the Brannan Plan. Recommended adjustments in the grading of beef.

Urged the passage of S.1115 by the House of Representatives to provide appropriations for the construction of a western land boundary fence.

Endorsed the Hoover Commission report and also all possible and practicable consolidation of Government agencies, provided there will be enacted at the same time Federal legislation providing a single uniform system of grazing administration that will be equitable between interests of Government, users of the land and the public interests of conservation in the proper utilization of the grazing resources.

Commended the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the American Meat Institute for their promotion and public relations programs.

Urged the National Advisory Council of the Bureau of Land Management to use every means at its command to secure the appropriation necessary to put the Nicholson plan into full operation.

Urged all State and Federal officials concerned with the eradication and control of Brucellosis to exert every effort through calf-hood vaccination and otherwise to educate livestock owners on the importance of the Brucellosis control program and the proper handling of control vaccines.

Recommended that the President of the Association appoint a chairman and members of the National Joint Forest Advisory Committee to cooperate with the National Wool Growers Association in solution of forest problems.

The resolutions adopted on transportation matters are very similar to those passed by the National Wool Growers Association and are not, therefore, set up here.

San Francisco, California, was selected as the place for the next annual meeting of the cattlemen's group.

Pay to the order of

U.S. RANCHERS and FARMERS

\$1,707,235,012.00

Swift & Company

You and We Are Both in the Livestock-Meat Business

And we both know mighty well that big sales don't mean big earnings. There's a whale of a difference between gross and net. Here are some of the things which make that difference:

WE BOTH BUY RAW MATERIALS



There's your breeding stock and feeding stock... raw materials without which you can't do business. We, too, buy raw materials. Hogs, lambs, cattle and calves, dairy and poultry products, cottonseed, peanuts and soybeans—take the greatest part of the dollars we receive from sales.

WE BOTH BUY NECESSARY SUPPLIES

You've got to have fertilizer, seed, grass, hay and grain... We must buy salt, boxes, barrels, shipping cartons, thousands of items. They cost 4.5 cents per dollar of business done.



WE BOTH PAY WAGES



You pay hired hands; veterinarian and other fees; costs of haying or other contracted jobs; living costs of members of your family who work on the place... Likewise wages and salaries take a big bite out of our sales dollar; \$237,519,974 last year: 17 times as much as paid in dividends.

WE BOTH PAY TAXES

You pay real estate, property, income, excise and other taxes. We pay taxes too... in every state in the Union and in hundreds of counties and municipalities... Taxes must be deducted before we, or you, can show any net profit. Last year our taxes totaled \$31,042,994.



WE BOTH MEET TRANSPORTATION COSTS



Gasoline, tires, auto and truck repairs cost you money. Last year transportation cost us \$50,078,225. That's a necessary business expense.

WE BOTH CARRY INSURANCE, ETC.

You have "incidental" expenses... telephone, electric light, heating, insurance policies, interest, depreciation. We have all those, plus many others, including cost of research laboratories and test kitchens; of retailers' merchandising aids... In 1949 our "incidentals" added up to \$61,737,271.



IF WE WORK HARD AND MANAGE WELL, WE BOTH MAKE SOME PROFIT

Some people, seeing only the big figure of gross sales, say, "What profitable businesses ranching, farming (and meat packing) are!" They don't stop to think that most of what comes in goes right out again. In our case about 99c of the dollar went out to other people or businesses... and about .6 of one cent went to the 64,000 shareholders who invested their savings in our Company.



AND, WE BOTH PLOW BACK SOMETHING INTO OUR BUSINESS



You re-invest part of your "profit" in new buildings, equipment, machinery, etc., to keep your operation efficient. We follow the same prudent business practice. Into reserves for such purposes went about half of our 1949 net earnings of \$25,826,129.

THIS IS OUR YEARLY REPORT to our friends—and business associates—on America's farms and ranches.

It tells you how much business Swift & Company did during 1949... what we took in from the sale of our products... how much we paid out for our raw materials, and all the many costs of doing business... and what was left over to plow back into the business, and to pay to the 64,000 shareholders who own our company.



Wm. B. Traynor

Swift operates in a large and highly competitive industry... an industry which provides a nationwide market for livestock, and supplies a nationwide demand for meat products, at low cost.

One pair of facts will probably interest you more than most others. Namely, out of each 1949 dollar that we took in from the sale of Swift products, we paid out just about 99 cents. And of that 99 cents paid out, 77.1 cents went to you farmers and ranchers in payment for the meat animals, poultry, eggs, cream, oil seeds and other agricultural products you sold us.

We print this report to agricultural people because there is such a close interest between us. You and we deal together every working day of the year. You get a large part of your yearly income from what you sell to meat packers—Swift and others. And it's from you that we get the raw materials of our business.

Wm. B. Traynor
Vice Pres. & Treas., Swift & Company

Quick Facts About Swift's Business in 1949

Our Total Sales were \$2,213,160,242
Our Net Earnings were \$25,826,129

Here's how our average sales dollar was spent:

For Livestock & Other Agricultural Products	77.1c
For Employees' Wages & Salaries	10.7c
For Supplies	4.5c
For Transportation	2.3c
For Taxes	1.4c
For Other Business Expenses	2.8c
Total spent out of each average dollar	98.8c

Remaining as Earnings:

—to shareholders as dividends	0.6c
—retained in the business for future needs	0.6c 1.2c
TOTAL	100.0c

Swift & Company

UNION STOCK YARDS, CHICAGO 9, ILL.

Nutrition is our business—and yours

Lamb Market News

LATE NEWS: On February 9th California spring lambs were being contracted at 25 cents, straight across, f.o.b. shipping point.

JANUARY'S lamb market was both "bearish" and "bullish." Higher live lamb prices the first and third weeks of the month were offset by lower prices the second and fourth. Chief "bearish" factor was a weakness in dressed lamb prices following the first week of the month. Chief "bullish" factor was good competition for the supply of slaughter lambs available on the markets.

During the first week of January good and choice wooled slaughter lambs went over the scales in a \$20 to \$24.75 price range. Those under 105 pounds bulked from \$22 to \$24.75 with 105- to 122-pounders at \$20 to \$23.75.

The second week of the month saw good and choice wooled slaughter lambs under 105 pounds selling mostly at \$22 to \$24.50 with a top of \$25 at Chicago. Most good and choice 105- to 120-pound wooled lambs cleared from \$18 to \$23.50. Discounts during the second week of January on heavy lambs were uneven, with cuts of \$1 to \$2.50 per hundred at some markets on weights above 100 pounds and with lambs up to 105 pounds and above on other markets selling at or near top prices.

During the third week of January, with smaller receipts, good and choice wooled slaughter lambs up to 105 pounds brought \$23 to \$24.75. Heavier lambs were usually discounted at \$1 to \$3.

During the week ending January 28th good and choice wooled slaughter lambs up to 110 pounds sold for \$23.50 to \$24.75 with heavier kinds at \$21.50 to \$23.50.

Good and choice slaughter ewes sold during January on most markets in a price range of \$10 to \$13.50; cull to medium kinds sold from \$8 to \$11.75.

Good and choice lambs purchased for feeding, including some from wheat pastures, corn fields and feedlots, sold during the month from \$22 to \$25. Some 63-pound feeders did reach \$25.50 at South St. Paul the second week of January. Good and choice fed yearling wethers sold on the markets during January mostly in a price range of \$19 to \$21.

The season's first movement of old-crop lambs from the Imperial Valley of California commenced the third week of January. Around 6000 head of lambs were moved out at \$23, mostly to West Coast packers. Early in January it was estimated there were 112,000 head on hand around Blythe, 6,000 around Yuma, and 10,000 in

Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last			
Total U. S. Inspected	1949	1498	
Slaughter, First Twelve Months.....	12,136,478	15,342,970	
Week EndedJan. 21, 1950		Jan. 22, 1949	
Slaughter at 32 Centers.....	213,442	263,923	
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Woolled):			
Good and Choice	\$23.05	\$24.56	
Medium and Good	22.15	22.95	
New York Av. Western Dressed Lamb Prices:			
Choice, 40-45 pounds	48.20	48.60	
Good, 40-45 pounds	45.50	47.10	
Commercial, All Weights	42.00		

Federally Inspected Slaughter—December			
	1949	1498	
Cattle	1,064,340	1,196,863	
Calves	510,536	572,405	
Hogs	6,477,185	6,089,352	
Sheep and Lambs	1,057,810	1,328,678	

the Salt River Valley. A January 31st report of the Federal State Livestock Market News Service states that Imperial Valley pasture lambs have been contracted up to 24¢ cents per pound, f.o.b. shipping point; some are held at 24½ cents.

Lamb Contracting

E. F. Galt, president, First National Bank, Great Falls, Montana, reports the following early January contracts in that State: January 13th, Sappington area, 2000 mixed blackfaced lambs, September 15th delivery, 20 cents; Toston area, January 13th, 400 mixed whitefaced lambs for September 20th delivery, 20 cents; January 13th, Twodot area, 800 mixed whitefaced lambs, September delivery, 20 cents. Also, on January 9th, in the Meeteetse, Wyoming area, 300 mixed feeder lambs sold for immediate delivery at 21 cents.

According to the West Texas Livestock Weekly of January 19th one good sized string of lambs west of San Angelo was contracted for May delivery, out of the wool, at 20 cents per pound. These are old crop lambs. The San Angelo Standard Times of January 17th, reports that Arch Benje and John Braun contracted to sell 2300 Rambouillet mutton lambs from their Midland and Nortrees ranches in Texas for delivery February 25th at 23 cents per pound.

According to the California Wool Grower of January 24th, Edwin Cain of Clovis, New Mexico recently bought 1000 feeder lambs from Jim Mitchel of Hagerman, New Mexico that weighed around 90

pounds and cost 21.5 cents to 22 cents.

The Federal-State Livestock Market News Service, San Francisco, reports on January 31st that the bulk of the early crop of Arizona spring lambs has been contracted for late March and early April delivery at 26 cents per pound f.o.b. shipping point.

Contracting for lambs for fall delivery was underway in south central Wyoming the last two weeks of January. Several strings of lambs are reported contracted there straight across at 21 to 21.5 cents per pound. In Oregon a few contracts for fall delivery were made at 20 to 20.5 cents with some whitefaced crossbred ewe lambs for fall delivery at 22.5 cents. Fat lambs in Idaho are reported up to 24 cents per pound f.o.b. shipping point for weights around 100 pounds.

—E. E. M.

Lambs on Feed

THE number of sheep and lambs on feed for market in the United States on January 1 this year was 7 percent less than last year. The number is estimated to be 3,733,000 head or 270,000 head less than last year and the smallest number on feed since 1922. A few States show increases over last year but most States are down with substantial reductions noted in some States, particularly in the West where feeding operations are 12 percent below those of 1949.

In the West, Colorado shows a small increase over last year, while in California

lamb feeding is down 16 percent. Nearly all of the increase in Colorado lamb feeding occurred in the irrigated areas of northern Colorado. The Arkansas Valley shows a marked reduction. Lamb feeding in California is sharply reduced with the Palo Verde Valley showing most of the reduction. The Imperial Valley and Northern California show about the same number on feed this year as last. Lamb feeding in the North Platte Valley of Nebraska and Wyoming is slightly larger than last year but still considerably below that of previous years. Of the remaining western States, only Oregon has more lambs on feed this year than last, while in some of the remaining western States reductions are substantial and range from 4 to 53 percent.

—B.A.E.

UNIFORM TERMS FOR LIVESTOCK MARKET NEWS

A system of uniform terminology to interpret trade conditions has been adopted by the Livestock Market News Service of the Production and Marketing Administration, USDA. The categories of market information and the uniform terms to be used in reporting livestock markets by USDA reporters were developed under the Research and Marketing Act and are contained in a leaflet just released. The new system will be used by the 35 Livestock Market News offices. Such expressions as "steady," "strong," "weak," and other market terms will have the same meaning when used by USDA market reporters at any of these markets. Copies of the leaflet are available from Information Branch, PMA, USDA.

MEAT BOARD SCHEDULES NATION-WIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Sixty-six cities in 31 states are included in the National Meat Board's schedule for a nationwide educational meat program. Designed specifically to reach the retail meat dealers, a two-day program will be conducted in each city. Cutting innovations on beef, pork and lamb will be demonstrated at mass meetings of retailers and at the same time pointers will be given on meat displays, low temperature meat cookery, frozen meats and factors relating to consumer appeal. Meat lecture-demonstrations will also be held for business and professional men, high school and college students and others.

The four-and-a-half-months' schedule will cover cities from Massachusetts and New York to California and Washington.

Utah's Lamb Panel



Members of the Lamb Panel, Utah Wool Growers' Convention: Seth Shaw (at the mike), meat specialist, Safeway Stores, Inc., and seated, left to right, Don Kenney, manager, Salt Lake Union Stock Yards; D. A. Broadbent, assistant director, Experiment Station, Utah State Agricultural College; Dr. Karl D. Butler, president, American Institute of Cooperation; and Homer Davison, vice president, American Meat Institute.

A feature of the Utah wool growers' convention (January 24-25, Salt Lake City) was a discussion of lamb marketing problems, particularly from the standpoint of how the producer can realize more money from his lambs. Some of the factors and opinions gathered from that panel are listed here.

The suggestion of cutting legs of heavy lambs into steaks is good, but legs do not lend themselves well to this method of cutting as the retailer is left with a hind shank when he is having difficulty in moving the fore shank; he is also left with a rump roast too that isn't very popular.

A new era of pre-cutting, wrapping and self-service in meats is developing very rapidly. Lamb lends itself very well to self-service.

Cheaper cuts of lamb such as stews move more easily in self-service. Lamb chops and shoulder chops make very attractive packages. The larger lamb cuts do not move too freely in self-service as customers hesitate to buy a packaged roast marked \$3.50 or \$4.00.

Lamb carcasses can be reduced to smaller cuts most attractively in self-service cases. People buy more meat in self-service markets.

It is in the North Atlantic area that most of the lamb is sold. New York and the New England area are counted on to buy about 50 percent of the country's lamb production and in some of those areas there has been considerable unemployment. This has been an important factor in lower prices for lamb.

There has been no great increase in population in the large lamb consuming areas. Therefore, producers must look toward those sections where the population

is increasing more rapidly and build up lamb purchases there to compensate for lower lamb consumption in other areas.

While lamb is in short supply, there is a very large output of pork and also a considerable supply of beef. While people are eating pork and beef they are not eating lamb.

It is very difficult to promote the sale of a commodity that is in short supply.

Lamb is consumed by high income groups. Income groups are changing; lower income groups are becoming high ones. Such groups may not eat lamb now, but they are potential customers and can be educated to its use.

Livestockmen feed their stock better than human beings are fed, so far as actual nutrition is concerned. Some States have already accepted this challenge and are doing something to correct the lack of proper nutrition in people. When other areas take up this program it will have a very beneficial effect on the Nation's economy, particularly that of agriculture and livestock.

Livestock people should make known to newspapers and radio reporters their appreciation of the market reports and let them know what type of information they would like to receive.

Sheepmen when selling their lambs should watch the scales and know just how much their lambs are weighing. They should also find out when the scales were last tested.

COOPER BECOMES ASSISTANT TO LIVESTOCK DIRECTOR

Announcement was made last month of the appointment of John A. Goe as chief of the Wool Division of the Livestock Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration. Later information reveals that Morton Cooper, who had been acting chief of that division, has been made assistant to H. E. Reed, Livestock Branch director. His work includes assistance in the developing and coordination of all price support programs in the Livestock Branch and other special assignments. Mr. Cooper has been employed in the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 30 years, much of the time with the Packers and Stockyards Administration. Mr. Goe, new wool chief, brings to his post practical experience in sheep ranching in Wyoming as well as that gained in posts with the Resettlement Administration, Security Administration, Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Soil Conservation Service.

A Strong Wool Market

THE spectacular rise in the foreign wool market during January made the headlines in all trade and some other papers. That the Australian and New Zealand auctions opened strong is putting it very mildly. The advance in price was so rapid, in fact, that even experts in following market trends found it difficult to determine accurate quotations.

The Australian market opened at Sydney on January 16th and at Geelong on the 18th and from those dates to the close of January the increase in prices is given as 10 to 20 percent and one report says the rise in some instances was 30 percent above December closing prices. In one week, to give you an idea of how quick the rise was: 64's Australian wool, clean basis c.i.f. New York, advanced at Sydney as much as 24 cents a pound.

At the end of the month there was an easing tendency and the rises were only moderate ones but the market remained strong and moved a little higher. On the first two days of February, however, it turned into a buyers' market and prices fell. None of the wool went begging, but British buyers, it is reported, withdrew from the bidding. Some commentators regard the recession as only temporary.

The rise in values at foreign points was reflected to some extent in the domestic market and, as you know, there has been considerable contracting of 1950 clips in some of the territory wool states. Contract news gathered in at the end of the month from reliable sources is as follows:

Arizona: On January 10th six clips totaling about 20,000 fleeces were contracted; one at 50 cents, one at 52 cents, one at 55 cents and three at 56 cents. The

clips were all fine wools coming largely from sheep on pasture with early lambs. However, two of the 56-cent clips have an end of desert-type wool which will probably be shorn in April. No other clips have been contracted in Arizona, and shearing was scheduled to start on February 1st.

California: Up to January 31st 62½ cents was the peak price in contracting 1950 wools, but in general 60 cents was being paid for 12 months' wool during the last week of January. Contract prices on 8 months' wools were between 46 and 51½ cents.

Colorado: Some of the wool in the Craig area is reported contracted at between 50 and 55 cents and there has been considerable wool taken on consignment around Montrose.

Idaho: One clip of about 6,000 fleeces in western Idaho largely quarter-blood and three-eighths but with some half-blood was purchased on the sheep's backs at 44 cents. Other offers at about 2 cents above last year's prices have been made but not accepted.

Montana: No contracting has been reported from Montana.

Nevada: There was a flurry of wool contracting with some competition from buyers during the month. Three different clips totaling about 12,000 fleeces were contracted at prices ranging from 50 to 50½ cents. These wools are said to be average French 64's with a shrinkage around 62 percent. Two thousand fleeces of yearling wool was contracted at 51½ cents, and 55 cents was recently given for 20,000 fleeces of lighter shrinking wool.

Oregon: No activity on 1950 wool is reported. In the Pendleton area about 13,000 pounds of 1949 wool was moved the last half of the month at 50 cents a pound, grease basis delivery at Portland.

South Dakota: There has been no contracting at South Dakota. Approximately three million pounds of 1949 wools remained unsold in the Belle Fourche area. It is estimated some two million pounds of those wools were offered at a sealed bid sale recently but growers' ideas on prices were higher than those of prospective buyers and only one offer was accepted. It covered 120,000 pounds and the price paid was 71½ cents at Boston and the net to growers, 66½ cents.

Texas: Eight months' wool is being contracted at 60 to 62 cents and probably slightly higher prices. A number of sales have been consummated on 12 months' wool (1949 clip) at an estimated \$1.65 cents clean basis price. An offer of 75 cents or close to \$1.75 clean was said to have been refused on an extra nice clip of 12 months' wool at Sonora.

Utah: A number of the 1950 clips have been contracted. In northern Utah, 50 cents has been accepted on mixed clips. In Panguitch 50 cents was the contract price on 10,000 fleeces, and in the Vernal area wools were being bought at 52 to 53½ cents, with 55 cents reported paid on some clips. In the Fountain Green and Manti sections from 50 to 54 cents has been the range of contract prices. All of these clips are fine and half-blood.

Washington: No activity has been reported in this State.

Wyoming: In Cokeville, Wyoming, 45 to 50 cents is given as the contract range on some mixed clips.

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NEW ORLEANS



Market Conditions in General

The statistical position of wool is thought to be the strongest in years. World demand is well in excess of production; in fact about 500,000,000 pounds in excess. World consumption of wool from July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950 is estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee at 3,528,000,000 compared with 3,547,000,000 pounds during the previous period. Production on the other hand is estimated at 3,015,000,000 pounds.

Most manufacturers in this country are moving cautiously and only filling urgent requirements. This is the time of year when fall lines are usually opened but apparently mills are waiting as long as possible before making any price announcements.

While manufacturers are feeling the effects of increased imports of British and other foreign-made goods, some of the important domestic buyers are remaining loyal, as they realize their market depends on continued employment of workers in this country. It is interesting to note in this regard that employment in textile areas has increased in recent months.

There is nothing to indicate any great stockpile of wool anywhere in the world

at this time. The Joint Organization, which handles the disposal of the United Kingdom and Dominion stockpile of wool, has announced it plans to sell 575,000 bales or 172,500,000 pounds during the first six months of this year, which will leave 565,000 bales on hand June 30th, as the remnant of the war-time accumulation, the disposal of which was expected to take at least 13 years. Two thirds of the current J. O. offering is said to be of medium and heavy burry types.

As of December 31, 1949 the Commodity Credit Corporation had 44,544,000 pounds of net wool available for sale, and since then it has moved a considerable volume.

Some changes have been made during the month by the C.C.C. in its selling price schedule. On January 2nd adjustments were made in pulled wool prices, and a week later changes were made in the selling prices of shorn wool as follows:

Grease wools of the 1946 program were reduced up to 8 cents per clean pound; prices on some 1947 wools remain unchanged and on others they are reduced as much as 5 cents per clean pound; some wools of the 1948 and 1949 programs were unchanged, but on some of

the finer grades, the price increase is as much as 9 cents per clean pound. Scoured and carbonized wools of the 1946 program were decreased as much as 8 cents and 1947 to 1949 scoured and carbonized wools were unchanged to 3 cents higher.

Australian Wool News

On January 23, Ex-Senator J. F. Guthrie, C.B.E., of Geelong, Victoria, Australia, sent the Wool Grower the following news about record sales there and other interesting facts about Australian sheep country.

Mr. Guthrie is pastoral advisor for the largest wool firm in the world. He is also head of the Guthrie Corriedale Stud.

IN your issue, December, 1949, instances are quoted of very high wool prices obtained at the public auctions in Australia in October last.

The following new Australian, and as far as lambs' wool is concerned an all-time world record, was obtained at the Geelong

Sunbeam STEWART SHEARING EQUIPMENT... Dependable, Long Lasting

PORTABLE MACHINE

Now, a lightweight, compact single-unit machine equally good for large or small flocks. Easy-to-handle. Set up, ready to go in minutes. Special mountings give rigid stability—use this machine on ground or floor, anywhere sheep can be shorn. Has 67" two-section jointed shafts, 4 cycle air-cooled engine. **No. CS-1** (Less handpiece and grinder) \$145. (Denver and West, \$149)

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Complete grinder for CS-1 Machine. Does perfect job of sharpening. **No. CS-1G** \$39.75. (Denver and West, \$42.50)

MACHINES

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Use your own engine or motor with this clutch bracket shearing gear. At right is one mounted on a simple, easily constructed stand. Can also be placed on wall or post. Low initial cost. Uses flat or V-belt. Complete with clutch bracket, E-B Handpiece, combs, cutters and choice of shafts. **No. VB-2** (illustrated) with 3-section 126" shaft, \$75. (Denver and West, \$76.50)

No. VB-1 with 2-section, 67" shaft, \$65. (Denver and West \$66.50)

No. VB-3 with 2-section, 42" shaft, \$65. (Denver and West, \$66.50)

No. VB-2

No. CS-1

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Developed for hard, gummy sheep. Pointed teeth enter wool freely—keep tallies up. **No. P1082** Arizona Thin Comb, \$1.65 ea.



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THIN HEEL CUTTER

Shearers tell us this comb cuts faster, better, lasts longer and grinds right. Fork yokes put more pressure on front end nearer point where cutting is done. **No. 80 Y** Thin Heel Cutter, \$0.65 ea.

5W—PROTECTIVE COMB

Leaves enough stubble to protect sheep from cold, storms, sunburn. Teeth with medium sized runners alternate with teeth of standard shape. **No. 5W** Protective Comb, \$2.50.



5W

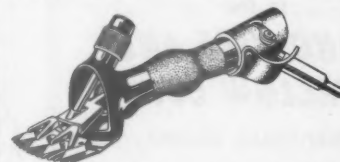
AAA CUTTER

Finest cutter made. Cutter teeth mesh with comb teeth to produce more efficient cutting angles for faster, cleaner shearing. **No. 34AB**, AAA Cutter, \$0.65 ea. **AAA Thin Heel Cutter**. Streamlined. When new, enters wool like worn cutter. **No. 93CC**, \$0.65 ea.



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STEWART "SUNBEAM" HANDPIECE



This new handpiece lets you shear up to 50% more sheep with same tools. Operates with lighter tension, runs at 25% greater speed. Pays for itself in saving of time and tools. **No. X70**, \$35.00.

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auctions, January 20, 1950. Records to date for the 1949-50 selling season are as follows:

I am quoting Australian currency: \$1 U.S.A. = 8/11d. or 107d. Australian:

Greasy Merino lambs	202d. per lb.
	(about \$1.89)
Greasy Merino fleece.....	173d. per lb.
	(\$1.62)
Greasy Fine Crossbred	128d. per lb.
	(\$1.10)
Greasy Pure Corriedale.....	106d. per lb.
	(.99)
Greasy Belly wool	100d. per lb.
	(.94)

In Geelong on the two days, 20th and 21st of January, 1950, 30,000 bales in 7,000 lots of greasy wool, were sold by auction in 8 hours for £3,176,466 (\$7,124,690); average per pound 84.8d. (79½ cents).

The foregoing are all-time records. Never in the history of Australian wool selling, which has been going for 100 years, have such high averages been obtained, nor in London either.

We sell simultaneously in three auction marts—the four bale lots over in one room, three bales or less in another room, lambs' wool and oddments in another room. The buyers number about 300, every wool-using country in the world being represented; biggest buyers are Great Britain, Continent, Australian mills and the U.S.A.

If the present extremely high market is maintained until end of financial year, 30th June, the Australian clip will realize fully £230,000,000 (\$515,887,831).

Even wool growers consider present wool

values dangerously high, but, of course, it is very easy to take £100 per bale of 290 pounds weight greasy wool. My wool-growing friends in the U.S.A. will consider our prices fantastic, but must remember that Geelong, Victoria, although only a small city of 52,000 people is selling center for the best wool in the world. Our Victoria Merino wool spins 70s to 100s count, clean yields 68 percent to as high as 74 percent and is free from dust and vegetable defects. Some of our Corriedale and crossbred wool yields 80 percent clean scoured wool!

Australia is having a good run—splendid season practically all over the Continent, which, as you know, is nearly as big as U.S.A., though one-third of the interior is of very little use, mostly desert; sheep clipping on the average over 40 (\$4.49) per head, but when it comes to carcass and meat prices we are not in it with U.S.A. Mutton, which we like, and Americans seem to detest, runs 6d. to 8d. (5½ to about 7 cents) per pound dressed carcass; lamb (6 months old) 12d. to 13d. (11 to 12 cents) per pound. Wool is, always has been, and always will be the backbone of Australia's economy. Wheat comes next. This harvest has yielded 200,000,000 bushels; average weight per bushel measure this season, 65 pounds.

It may interest you to know that your General MacArthur, who is highly thought of in Australia, has permitted Japan to place an order for some hundreds of Australian rams in Australia.

We admire the splendid organization of the U.S.A. sheep breeders and various breed societies. You have more Corriedale flocks in U.S.A. than we have in Australia, but our registered flocks are much larger, and the total number of Corriedales in Australia is greater than in U.S.A. You seem to favor Hampshires; practically no Hampshires in Australia. The most popular British breeds for lamb production are Southdowns, Dorset Horns and Border Leicesters and Romneys. Thirty to forty years ago, Shropshires were popular and they bred too much wool on the head and face, became practically wool blind and now not at all popular. However, my father, who was a pioneer pastoralist, sheep and cattle breeder and wool broker in Australia, impressed upon me 50 years ago, "Breed the sheep which suit your country," and that advice holds good today, as no doubt it does in U.S.A.

I was, naturally, very interested in extensive, well-illustrated, very informative article on the Messrs. King Brothers' Corriedale flock in your issue of December, as several rams bred by me were shown.

I suppose I should not write about politics, but we were very glad to get rid of the Socialists in New Zealand and then Australia, and hope Great Britain follows suit.

We have read, with distress, of the terrible blizzards and loss of life recently in U.S.A. We had a heat wave in outback and north of Australia, but little or no damage, and bush and grass fires which are generally dreaded at this wheat season have so far not been serious. Rabbits are very bad over most of Australia. There are many hundreds of millions of them, and we estimate 8 rabbits eat or destroy as much feed as one sheep. We estimate that, if we could exterminate the rabbits, we could safely depasture another 50,000,000 sheep.

—J. F. Guthrie

WOOL PARITY

Parity price of wool as of January 15, 1950, has been calculated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics under the new (modernized) formula as 50 cents per pound. While the parity figure to be used in the 1950 wool support program will be that of March 15th, if it too is 50 cents, then 90 percent of it or 45 cents will be the average support price for 1950. This is 2.7 cents higher than the 42.3 cents base for the program in 1949 and previous years.

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AROUND the RANGE COUNTRY

THE New Year roared in on high winds and heavy snowfalls, bringing the Pacific Northwest one of its worst winter storms. Elsewhere, temperatures were low, with conditions generally unfavorable for livestock and much supplemental feeding was necessary in the Rocky Mountain area, the Northern Border States and the Northwest and also as far south as Texas.

Weather continued in this vein as the month progressed, and some shrinkage of livestock was noted. The Pacific Northwest continued to receive the full fury of storms, with a record 24-hour snowfall of 16 inches in Spokane.

As January waned, Old Man Winter's force did also. Generally mild weather favored livestock and permitted much grazing in the eastern two-thirds of the country. However, continued cold stormy weather in the Northwest, northern Rockies and extreme Northern Great Plains was hard on livestock and increased feed requirements.

COLORADO

Monte Vista, Rio Grande County

Forage on the winter range is good and we have done less feeding this year than last winter. The flocks are in good condition (January 19) but then, we have had no severe storms since the first of the year.

Stacked alfalfa is \$18 per ton, and baled, \$22. We pay \$90 for 20 percent protein pellets which we use during the winter.

The same number of ewes were bred as a year ago. We own a small farm flock.

—Gorden Kerr

IDAHO

Buhl, Twin Falls County

The sheep are in fairly good condition, but ranges are poor (January 22). We are not feeding as much as a year ago. The asking price on alfalfa is \$15 per ton, stacked; and \$18 per ton, baled. We feed corn during the winter.

There is no change in the number of ewes bred.

Our loss from predators amounts to 7

percent, which is as great as it was in 1948.

1949 operating costs were about the same as in 1948 but higher than in 1947.

I think the labor problem is of great importance. If no assistance can be given on the labor problem, there is little point in expenditure of efforts in behalf of lower freight rates, a better national forest and public domain setup. Without sufficient and satisfactory labor, we cannot take advantage of other benefits. —X

Gooding, Gooding County

Weather here is about normal for this time of year (January 20) — no severe storms. Sheep are in very good condition.

Due to the severe winter of 1949, costs were higher than in 1948 or '47.

Stacked alfalfa is \$15 per ton; baled, \$17 to \$18. We feed barley and some cubes during the winter. Barley is \$2 per hundred and oats, \$2.50 per hundred.

Crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes are about \$26.

Our loss from predatory animals is very small.

I believe sheep numbers are increasing in this area.—Earle Bolte

MONTANA

Judith Gap, Wheatland County

The first five days of the New Year were pretty tough. Besides that, there was one other week when temperatures hit 20° below.

Forage is fair at this time (January 19). We are feeding less hay than a year ago. Sheep are fair also.

Around the Range Country gives our readers a chance to express their opinions about anything pertaining to the industry or about life in general. In offering this space for free expression of thought, the National Wool Grower assumes no responsibility for any statement made.

Statements about the weather and range condition are taken from U. S. Weather Bureau reports in January.

Baled alfalfa is \$30 per ton. We feed molasses cake and barley mixed with screenings. Cake is \$70 a ton.

Going price on fine-wool yearling ewes is \$25; and crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes are about the same if you can find any.

We find that 1949 costs ran a little higher than in 1948.

—Robert W. Stone

C. B. Bar Livestock Company

Martinsdale, Meagher County

Forage is fair (December 17). There has been some snow, helping dry feed, but the water is freezing. Sheep are in good condition. They had a good breeding season.

Baled alfalfa is \$30 per ton, while loose hay is \$25. Cottonseed and local pellets are available at \$90 per ton.

Around November 1, fine-wool yearling ewes were selling at \$23 to \$25, and crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes, at \$20 to \$23.

Loss from predators amounts to about 1½ percent. We have had 90 percent of that loss while in the forest reserve. We have coyotes waiting upon our entering the reserve July 1st. We cannot poison on the forest reserve, but I wish we could. They eat deer in the winter and mutton in the summer. Very few coyotes are on the lower private lands.

Liquidation continues here, although it is slowing up. Help, taxation and general expense all contribute to cutting numbers.

The herder situation is fairly good. Should sheep numbers return to previous figures, the herders must increase accordingly.

We enjoy the Wool Grower and realize its value to us.

—Dave Lamb, Manager,
The Bair Company

Moccasin, Judith Basin County

Feeding started two weeks earlier this year. Forage on the winter range is fair (January 18). There has been a good deal of cold weather, but not much snow or wind. All small flocks in this section are in good condition.

I think stacked alfalfa is about \$30, and baled is \$40. We feed Moorman's 45 percent cubes and are experiencing difficulty in getting the amount we need. The price is \$164 per ton.

Ewes bred last year numbered 150, and this year's number is 250. Fine-wool yearling ewes and crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes are priced at \$25.

We haven't had a loss from predators for three years.—*J. L. Barrick*

NEVADA

Eureka, Eureka County

The herder situation in this area is good, which is also true of winter forage and flocks.

The last few weeks have been cold and dry and no supplemental feeding has been necessary yet (January 12). Corn, which we use during the winter, is \$64 per ton.

Ewe lambs carried over this fall numbered about the same as a year ago as did the number of ewes bred.

—*Julian Goicochea*

NEW MEXICO

Hope, Eddy County

Costs of operation in 1949 were about 15 percent higher than in 1948 and about 25 percent higher than in 1947. There is a noticeable tendency to increase flocks in this area.

Southeast New Mexico is having its mildest winter in years (January 20). Forage is good, except for a few dry spots. About the same amount of supplemental feeding has been necessary. Baled alfalfa

is \$25 and the cottonseed cake we use is \$65 per ton. Flocks are in unusually good shape.

About the same number of ewes were bred this year.

Fine-wool yearling ewes are \$20, and crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes are \$24.

Our predator loss is low, showing a decrease from last year.—*J. P. Casabonne*

OREGON

Albany, Linn County

Rain and fairly cold weather have predominated the last few weeks. Feed is still good, as farmers used a great deal of fertilizer on field crops last fall. Forage has been good to date (January 10) and sheep are also in good condition.

Some supplemental feeding has been done. Baled alfalfa is \$35 per ton. We use oats and barley in addition, and they are \$50 to \$60 per ton.

There was an increase in the number of ewe lambs carried over this fall of 10 percent and an increase in the number of ewes bred of 5 percent.

We are feeding a few lambs this winter.

Crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes have recently sold for \$20.

Our loss from predators amounts to less than one percent, a decrease from a year ago.

Liquidation has ceased in this area.

—*O. E. Mikesell*

Burns, Harney County

It looks as though the sheep business is trying to stage a comeback in eastern

Oregon; the uncertainty of the wool market is the deterring factor.

The winter range here is only 50 percent of normal due to lack of rain last fall. I have been feeding sheep cubes since November 1. My sheep are in excellent shape now on hay and cake (January 21). Stacked alfalfa runs about \$18 per ton, and baled, \$22. Wild hay is about \$12 in the stack. I feed 28 percent protein cottoncake cubes and they cost about \$70 per ton.

My ewe lambs are being fed at home. Fine-wool yearling ewes and crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes are around \$28 per head.

We have had practically no loss from predators.

Costs in 1949 were about 10 percent over those of the previous year.

—*Peter Obiague*

Silver Lake, Lake County

Ewes bred are down by 10 percent under a year ago.

Storms have been severe since the first of the year and forage is not good. Supplemental feeding so far has been twice what it was last year. Sheep are in good condition. Alfalfa stacked is \$25 and baled is \$30. Sheep cubes and corn are fed to the sheep, at \$80 per ton.

Crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes have sold recently at \$20 per head.

An increase in loss from predators has been noted. Total loss amounts to five percent.

Sheep numbers continue to diminish in this section because help is not good.

—*J. W. O'Keefe*



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Who benefits from animal agriculture?

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OREGON

Heppner, Morrow County

We have been having lots of winter this year. There has been between 2½ to 3 feet of snow altogether. However, it has blown and melted until there is only about 10 to 12 inches now (January 30th).

It was about 15 degrees below zero last night, the coldest night so far this year.

—Steve Thompson

Antelope, Wasco County

Sheep flocks are fair to good (January 21). Forage is short and about three weeks behind last year's. We've had some heavy storms, with about 20 inches of snow and below zero temperatures for 10 days.

Stacked alfalfa is \$26 per ton and baled is \$30. Cubes are \$62, delivered at the ranch. Ewes bred number about the same as a year ago.

The going price on fine-wool yearling ewes is \$25; and the same applies to white-faced crossbreds.

Our loss from predators remains about the same, which amounts to one-tenth of one percent.

I believe costs of operation in 1949 were about 14 percent higher than in 1948 and about 24 percent higher than in 1947. Liquidation continues to some extent, although there are not many left to liquidate. One outfit sold out last fall, and those of us who are left are habitual sheepmen and don't like to give up.

—Henry E. Rooper

SOUTH DAKOTA

Chalkbutte, Meade County

I sold my sheep last spring. I experienced too much trouble getting herders—the older men get old age pensions and the younger ones won't herd sheep.

However, in this area there have been several bad storms to date (January 20). Forage on the winter range is bad, but sheep are in fair condition.

Baled alfalfa runs \$20 a ton, and stacked is \$15. Corn cake cubes are \$85.90 per ton.

Fine-wool yearling ewes and crossbred (white-faced) yearling ewes have been selling for \$24.

Sheep flocks continue to go down, as expenses are too high.—Thomas Shaw

DAKOTAS HIT HARD BY STORMS

A large area of north central South Dakota and sections of North Dakota were designated as disaster areas by the Red Cross on January 30th. Some 500 to 600 families, isolated by severe blizzards the previous week that left a snow covering of 30 to 36 inches, were reported as running out of food and fuel—some of them were said to be existing on only flour and water and slaughtered livestock.

The disaster area in South Dakota includes McPherson, Campbell, Edmunds and Walworth counties.

Edgemont, Fall River County

Much less supplemental feeding has been done this year. Very little roughage is fed. Some concentrates are always fed regardless of weather and conditions. Sheep are well up to average in this section, and the forage is good (January 19).

Baled alfalfa is \$30. We feed mostly cottonseed cake, which runs between \$80 and \$85 per ton.

Due to last winter's loss, there has been a slight decrease in the number of ewes bred.

Top quality fine-wool yearling ewes have sold at \$24, as have crossbred (white-faced) yearling ewes.

Losses from predators are very small.

Because of last winter's storms, operational costs during 1949 were greater.

Few herders are used, as most pastures are being fenced sheep tight, but losses from theft are increasing.

—Thomas L. Seppala

Isabel, Ziebach County

The situation as far as forage is concerned is bad. Snow is as deep as the grass is tall and is crusted on top (January 25). Sheep are just fair. Weather has been stormy with temperatures at 20° below.

Feeding has been necessary. Stacked alfalfa is \$16 a ton and corn is \$1.30 a bushel. Cotton cake runs about \$80 a ton.

The number of ewe lambs carried over this fall was down from last year, as were the number of ewes bred.

Two-year-old crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes brought \$22 a short time ago.

Predator loss is small and has not increased from a year ago.

Sheep numbers are still going down in this section. Shortage of experienced men, shortage of sufficient range and poor wool prices all contribute to this. Sheepmen are changing to cattle.—Eldon Rosander

UTAH

Springville, Utah County

There have been no bad storms the past few weeks, but there has been a lot of wind (January 17). Forage on the winter range is fair. Supplemental feeding has not been necessary as yet. Sheep flocks are the best they have been for some time.

Stacked alfalfa is \$18 and baled is \$22 per ton. The grain pellets we feed are \$68 per ton.

There have been some offers on 1950 wool up to 52 cents in this section.

Our loss from predators has amounted to one ewe up to date.

The hard winter of 1949 upped costs of operation. To some extent liquidation continues, mostly due to reductions on the national forest.

—Myron D. Childs

Tremonton, Box Elder County

Wool contracting has commenced here. Medium grade wool from small outfits of around 5,000 to 6,000 head has been sold at 50 cents a pound.

We have had a good winter so far (January 22). The range has been good, and sheep, very good.

Stacked alfalfa is \$15 per ton, and baled runs \$18. Not many lambs are being fed in this area.

Ewes bred number about the same as a year ago. Fine-wool yearling ewes are priced at \$25 to \$26, and the same is true for crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes.

Our loss from predators is a little greater than a year ago, amounting to one percent.

During the last two years, sheep numbers have neither increased or decreased.

—Nick Chournos

WYOMING

Cody, Park County

The herder situation in this area is more stable now, and I think liquidation of flocks has stopped.

Winter forage is fair to good and the condition of sheep is average to good. Dry winter weather has prevailed, with temperatures above normal (January 10) which leaves feeding open. We feed some hay. Alfalfa runs \$15 to \$18 stacked, and

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\$20 to \$25 baled. The 20 percent range cubes we feed are \$80 per ton.

I would say the number of ewe lambs carried over shows an increase this year.

Fine-wool yearling ewes have sold for \$20.

We like the Wool Grower very much.

—Frank Lynn

Node, Niobrara County

We have had a very open winter here (January 9). At present there is no snow on the ground. Last week was quite cold; Tuesday the mercury didn't get above 9° below, but as a whole it has been a very mild winter and livestock are looking good.

—Joseph Pfister

Thermopolis, Hot Springs County

Costs of operation in 1949 were much higher than in previous years. Liquidation of sheep continues, as producers are turning to cattle.

Forage on the winter range is very short. About the same amount of feeding has been done as a year ago. Sheep are in better condition than a year ago.

Corn is \$2.75 per hundred; stacked alfalfa, \$20 per ton, and baled, \$25.

Fine-wool yearling ewes have sold for \$22, and crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes, \$24.

—George and Jennie MacKenzie

WASHINGTON

Prosser, Benton County

This area has been hit by considerable storms since the first of the year (January 24). Sheep are in good condition, but forage is poor. They have been on full feed for two weeks. The mixed grain pellets used are \$69 a ton.

Costs of operation during 1949 were about the same as in the two preceding years.—Milton Mercer

Adrian, Grant County

We have had cold, snowy weather here the last month, but we were out on the range until January 15 and the grass was good. I think I will have enough hay, but there isn't too much in this part of the country. Good alfalfa baled is \$35 per ton and pea pellets are \$55 a ton.

There are no sheep for sale here (January 26), so prices are high. I would like to buy 125 good ewes but can't seem to find them.

There seems to be quite a few coyotes. I haven't seen a Government trapper this fall.

Labor seems to be a lot better.

—Joe W. Hodgen

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THE *Auxiliaries*



Utah's Fine Convention

ONE of the most successful conventions of the Utah Wool Growers Auxiliary was the twentieth one, held in Salt Lake City, Utah at Hotel Utah, January 24th and 25th. The weather, which had been spring-like in Utah, the week preceding the convention, encouraged a good attendance and there was a general feeling of good fellowship prevailing during the two days' activities.

A breakfast at 8:30 the morning of the 24th, honored the past presidents of the auxiliary, seven of whom were present and received the appreciation of the auxiliary. They were: Mrs. Ovanda Kearnes, Salt Lake City; Mrs. Ruby Ivory, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Hyrum Erickson, Salt Lake City; Mrs. Blanche Kearnes, Salt Lake City; Mrs. Don Clyde, Provo; Mrs. Delbert Chipman, American Fork and Mrs. Jos. T. Murdock, Heber City. Twenty-nine attended the breakfast.

Following the breakfast the women met in joint session with the men's association to hear Governor J. Bracken Lee's address of welcome, the annual address of Mr. Don Clyde, president of the Wool Growers' Association; and the annual address of Mrs. Emory C. Smith, president of the Women's Auxiliary. Mr. Clyde spoke of the problems confronting the industry at this time and what had been accomplished the past year, while Mrs. Smith told of the progress in aims and membership since the inception of auxiliary work twenty years ago, particularly in the promotion of wool and lamb, and the "Make It Yourself-With Wool" sewing contest sponsored by the auxiliary.

The annual business meeting of the auxiliary was held the afternoon of January 24th, at which time reports were given by officers and presidents of the various chapters. Splendid reports were given by: Mrs. Parson Webster from the Southern Utah Chapter; Mrs. Howard Williams, from the Uintah Basin Chapter; Mrs. Jos. T. Murdock, Heber City; Mrs. Geo. E. Graff, president of the American Fork Chapter; Mrs. Eva Jacobson, president of the Fountain Green Chapter. Mrs. Barton

gave the report of the Manti Chapter, and Mrs. M. V. Hatch, president of the Powell Forest Chapter gave a resume of what they plan to do in the near future as they have been newly organized. Mrs. Don Clyde, president of the newly re-organized Central Utah Chapter, gave her report, and Mrs. S. I. Greer, president of the Salt Lake City Chapter concluded with a report of her chapter's activities.

The State Auxiliary President had mimeographed copies of her report handed to each member present, this report to be given before the various chapters in order that more of the members can be informed of what the State officers are doing.

Election of officers was the concluding business of the day. The following new officers will serve during the next year:

President, Mrs. Sterling Ercanbrack of 291 East 4th North, Provo; First Vice-President, Mrs. Wm. J. Graef, 1803 East 13th South, Salt Lake City; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Glen A. Rowe, 103 W. 4th North, Manti; Secretary, Mrs. T. R. Pope, RD #1, Springville; Treasurer, Mrs. Reuel Jacobson, Provo; Auditor, Mrs. Howard Williams, Vernal. Fifty members were present.

Guests of the men's association for the dinner dance were the eight top winners in the 1949 "Make It Yourself-With Wool" sewing contest and fashion commentator, Miss Claire Hansen. Following dinner and preceding the floor show these charming young ladies trod the ramp in their prize-winning costumes as Miss Hansen described their all-wool coats, suits, and dresses. The large audience was delighted with the results of the contest as evidenced by the interest and applause.

Highlighting the social events of the convention was the novel luncheon attended by 170 in Hotel Utah's Roof Garden on the final day. Miniature spring hats amid filmy net decked each table and the head table featured a white lamb sporting a miniature wool felt bonnet. Favors were miniature hat boxes tied with wool yarn and lamb recipe booklets.

The theme of the luncheon was "Let

Gaiety Rule Supreme—Wool Spring Hats being the theme!" With this in mind, the program was introduced in a verse about hats by Sidney Smith, whose head only, appeared through an opening of a large hat box surrounded by colorful tissue. Mr. Jo Dean, whose hobby is designing and creating hats, put the finishing touches on a beautiful kelly green wool fabric hat which he made and gave to the auxiliary to be raffled off at the luncheon.

A style show of original Mimi Pearce



With a panorama of Salt Lake City as seen from the Hotel Utah Roof Garden as a background, Mrs. Wm. J. Graef of Salt Lake City (left), and Mrs. Sterling Ercanbrack of Provo "sit" for their pictures. They are new first vice president and president, respectively, of the Utah Auxiliary.

wool hand knits followed with auxiliary members, Mrs. Owen Morris, Mrs. Rex Beckstead, Mrs. Gilbert Howard, Mrs. Milo Marsden, Mrs. Wilby Aagard and Mrs. Emory Smith as models. Mrs. Hart Stallings served as the model for Mr. Dean.

A hilarious hat skit, furnished by a group of well-known Salt Lake City men — non-wool growers, and their wives, was enjoyed immensely and was followed by the judging of hats. Three legs of lamb were given as prizes, one for the most humorous hat made by the wearer and using the wool or lamb theme; one for the most attractive hat made by the wearer and made of wool and one for the hat purchased by the wearer and using wool the most uniquely.

Installation of the new officers concluded the luncheon program.

Music for the afternoon was furnished by Mrs. Lowell Hicks on the marimphone; decorations were created by Mrs. Jos. T. Murdock; reservations and tickets were handled by Mrs. Dan L. Capener; hospitality chairman was Mrs. S. I. Greer, and publicity chairman, Mrs. H. S. Erickson.—Mrs. Emory C. Smith

Sheep in the Uncompahgre Valley

(Continued from page 12)

Wool Course at Wyoming. Soon after leaving Montrose we enter the Uncompahgre Forest and travel through it for many miles before reaching the Horsefly. Autumn temperatures had worked wonders on the leaves of deciduous trees, changing their soft greens to russet-brown, vermilion, and bright yellow. Especially striking are the myriads of slender aspens with their fluttering yellow leaves.

"Quite an art, lambing on the range," muses Mr. Hofmann, as he knows only too well. "Sometimes a lamb comes with six inches of snow on the ground, but if it can get up and suck it will go right along." Close supervision in inclement weather, he agrees, will save many lambs; the important thing is to see that the lamb gets the warm, life-giving fluid from its dam's udder before the tender newcomer becomes chilled and weak. Quite a number of ewes when on lush pasture at lambing time must be milked out as a precautionary measure. That means the ewe must be caught, at times not an easy task; and she must be milked out until such time as the lamb can take it all. In the case of twin lambs the problem is more simplified. Breed is a factor in quantity milk secretion. The Hampshire ordinarily will give more milk than the Rambouillet; that is perhaps one reason why lambs from the former breed mature quickly.

Greatest Enemy of Sheep Now Are Bears

As we traversed many lonely miles through the national forest the talk turned to predatory animals. The lobo or timber wolf is rarely seen these days, says Mr. Hofmann, nor are there many coyotes today compared with the old days. Contrary to popular opinion, bears are the greatest sinners when it comes to sheep destruction, says Mr. Hofmann, at least on the Western Slope.

"It takes a mighty good man to catch a bear," he says. It is very difficult to get near enough to a bear to rope him; moreover, the average bear when grown is both fast and cunning, and often will outrun a good horse in this rough country, according to Mr. Hofmann. Once a bear has acquired the habit of worrying and killing sheep the hand of every flockmaster for many miles around is against him. "You've got to kill him somehow!" When feasible the forest rangers and public domain officers are notified, and the

nearest Biological Survey hunter is warned. The latter has various methods of destruction at this command—poisoning, trapping, shooting; but only after it is definitely proved that the bear is guilty.

Ordinarily bears are harmless to sheep and, in fact, to humans who leave them alone. Consequently Bruin is protected as much as possible by game wardens and wildlife officials in general. Once let a bear get started in sheep-killing and sheep-worrying, however, and he is an "outlaw" from that instant. If it appears that it might be an isolated case, action to recover damages in court against the powers that be may, and frequently has been, invoked. Such action usually results in proper compensation being paid to the owner of the sheep. There have been times, says Mr. Hofmann, when the law of self-preservation against bears seems to be the only logical answer. No time is to be lost; the culprit must be exterminated for the good of the sheep-breeding fraternity.

Mr. Hofmann, in his long experience with sheep on those far-away mesas and hills, has seen the destruction that sometimes occurs in a single night when a fierce bear gets in a flock. Instances are not rare when the carnage has been frightful to behold. That is why the range sheepman in Colorado whose flocks are herded over considerable territory, according to season, from desert plains to the timberline of steep mountains, fears the bear.

At one time sheepmen counted on a ten

percent loss from coyotes; now it is down to one percent. Extermination of this pest has continued for years, usually through poisoning. Some *pastores*, however, while grateful on the one hand regret that some of their best dogs have unfortunately too often taken the bait intended for the coyote.

Sheepmen Lease Land From Forest Reserve and Public Domain

Like most of his colleagues, Mr. Hofmann leases land from both the Forest Service and the public domain, the latter under the Taylor Act of 1934. On the forest land he pays five cents per animal per month. He salts his sheep every day in good weather, by putting out the salt on the rocks near where the animals bed down.

As we proceeded at half speed so that Mr. Hofmann could point out features of interest, we saw a picturesque figure coming around the shoulder of a hill apparently to meet us. He must have noticed our car from afar. He was leading his horse, with a sheep-dog at his heels. His face was bearded (rather unusual) and weather beaten, and his general aspect suggested a Mexican herder or shepherd. But he was taller than the average Mexican, that and the fact of his beard rather puzzled me. Mr. Hofmann stopped and left the car to meet him, out of earshot; we could see both of them laughing, however, over some

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joke; and Mr. Hofmann handed him a small package, presumably tobacco, after which the lonely shepherd turned with his horse and dog behind him and soon disappeared among the trees.

Like most of the *pastores* who devote much of their active lives to caring for the sheep of others on the range, this grizzled sentinel of the forest and wind-swept plateau is a native of New Mexico. His father, it seems, was white, but he disappeared when the boy was too young to know him. His mother was Mexican.

"That's Sierra Vista!" proudly exclaimed Mrs. Hofmann as we emerged onto open ground and presently saw a beautiful perspective of valley and glen, with towering mountains in the distance. And beyond them, through a rift, almost on the horizon, we could just make out the far-distant peaks of La Sal range in southeastern Utah. For miles we drank in the visual joys of that elevated landscape with its many colors of leaf and rock formations as these merged with the low-lying clouds in the distance.

But something else took our eye and served to whet our appetites in that bracing air: It was the sight of that attractive Log Cabin—although "cabin" is too modest a name to apply to this well-built and commodious structure. Mountain "lodge" would perhaps more appropriately typify it. Constructed by Stuart Hofmann and his two sons from spruce and pine logs cut from their own land, the completed job cost them but three or four hundred dollars; they did all the work themselves.

What a haven of rest and hospitality it is! About twenty-five miles from Montrose, on a site which could hardly be improved upon. Sheltered in its rear by a portion of the Horsefly plateau and the Uncompahgre Forest, it enjoys that magnificent view from its broad verandah which I have attempted briefly to describe, except that I did not mention the frame house and several out-buildings on the floor of the little valley about a mile away. A smaller house not far away from the other constitutes a little settlement, with a bunkhouse for the sheep herders and others doing farm work in season, and corrals for working and penning sheep. I understand Bill Hofmann lives there part of the year, at least, and his parents used to live there at certain seasons, but nobody was in residence then.

Rustic Hospitality At Its Best

It's the cabin on the hill, however, that interests the visitor the most, particularly if hungry, as we were. Before one could turn around, Mr. Hofmann, whom I should

have mentioned is a man of extraordinary energy for his age—dynamic to a degree in thought and action—had carried in an armful of logs and these were soon crackling and sputtering and filling the living-room with the fragrant odor of mountain-grown twigs and branches.

In the meantime the ladies were busy preparing a meal which I for one will not soon forget. Mrs. Hofmann produced four big steaks which she had brought along; and what with vegetables, fruit, and pastry—and even a bottle of wine—topped off with black coffee, nothing could have excelled our good fortune.

It would have been no trick at all, had the weather turned bad, to put us up for the night, or two, in that delightful spot. They had their "bottled" gas for cooking and light—even the refrigerator, I think, was run the same way. No wonder the good ladies of Montrose consider it a distinct privilege to be invited to stage certain special occasions during the summer at Sierra Vista. Mrs. Hofmann showed us how a series of flaps the length of the screened verandah could be raised to accommodate a goodly crowd of ladies at lunch.

After lunch our host drove us out on

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narrow trails in the hope of meeting some of the sheep. We passed within sight of two or three tents where his sheepherders slept, but we did not approach them because they were some distance from the road. Presently we came across a flock ranging on the side of a steep hill. It was rough ground, but timothy seed had been sown among the wild grasses and had come up riotously in the meantime. Only recently had the flock been transferred to that range, and to judge from the distended bellies of the lambs they were feasting in paradise, so to speak. I watched the busy little creatures going from stem to stem of the long grass, nipping off the seed heads only; particularly greedy, I noticed, were they of the timothy heads. They were mostly of the Columbia-Rambouillet cross, and, while fat and thrifty, were a little lighter than the lambs I had seen the day before, on the Big Cimarron, that showed a generous dose of Hampshire blood. These range men use the terms "white-face" and "black-face" to designate generally the blood used in the make-up of their flocks.

These Horsefly sheep, managed by Bill Hofmann, reflect the personal choice of Bill in contradistinction to the preferences of Stuart Hofmann whose tastes go more to the Hampshire for one side of the cross. Bill, on the other hand, explains his father, likes the Columbia to cross on the Rambouillet. In this manner the Hofmanns are able to check on the merits of white-face and black-face under comparatively equal conditions. About 3,000 ewes were enjoying the generous grazing on the Horsefly near the beginning of October, divided into flocks of 1,000 under separate herders. We passed, however, one flock of 1,200 ewes and 1,500 lambs, the difference being accounted for by the twin lambs of many ewes. These lambs had all been dropped from the 20th of May to the 20th of June.

All lambs are marked according to sex—the males in one ear, the females in the other.

As we came down from the Horsefly we could not help but marvel at the great amount of energy, planning, vigilance, and even self-sacrifice that must be made in order to handle sheep successfully on the range. Within the altitude limits where the Hofmanns run their sheep it requires two and one-half acres to feed a ewe. "Some want to run more, but if you keep to this proportion of land to sheep you will never overgraze," declares Stuart Hofmann.

For many years it was the custom of Western Slope sheepmen to trail their flocks to the Utah desert for wintering. Now they are shipped by rail.

Doesn't Like Hybrid Corn for Sheep

It is interesting to hear what Stuart Hofmann has to say about hybrid corn—"Give me the old-fashioned type of corn; the kernel of the hybrid is too small. I try to order the old corn, but can hardly get it. Our best corn used to come from Nebraska and Kansas. We like good corn to feed on the desert. We feed at the rate of a quarter of a pound of corn a day to each animal. They do well on this amount, and after they have learned to eat it do not miss a kernel."

As for the quality of alfalfa today; it is not so good as it used to be, he objects, and is inclined to place the blame on the vigor of the seed or some other factor in connection with it. Mr. Hofmann feels strongly on this, and would like to see the matter investigated by State and Federal experiment stations.

Speaking of varieties and types of sheep, Mr. Hofmann is beginning to take an interest in the Suffolk. He admits that perhaps the lambs are more easily born than in the case of some other breeds because of their smaller and clean heads. His observations over a definite period regarding

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the thriftiness of the lambs sired by Suffolks, in crossing, would suggest that they are about equal to other good mutton breeds. He has had a great deal of experience with the Hampshire and, all in all, is a fervent admirer of that breed as a sire of quick-maturing market lambs. Much depends on the source of the breeding stock. Both the Columbia and the Corriedale also continue to be in active demand for crossing on range sheep in this section of Colorado, and it is most interesting to notice how flockowners judiciously change, within well defined limits, from one breed to another. Of course, the Rambouillet blood is at the bottom of the pile.

Winter in Idaho

ON this date, February 1st, it is clear and cold in Idaho. To date we have had a fine winter with no extreme cold or excessive snow. Here in the Snake River Valley we have had a total of around 12 inches of snow to date. It was followed by warm weather and now it is down to 4 inches of crusted snow. Just fine weather for feeding. The roads generally have remained open and hauling has been normal. Of course we may have bad weather later but it is not to be expected.

Lambing already is underway and reports to date indicate an average drop. The ewes are in fine condition, having been in feedlots since early in December. No wool has sold but 46 cents has been offered for three-eighths blood. This is so far below the expected market that none is sold.

Hay and grain are plentiful, hay at around \$17 and barley at 2½ cents. Our sheepmen always are prepared for winter and this is no exception.

—S. W. McClure, Bliss, Idaho

Wrong Room, Wrong Bed

DURING the Sunday influx of wool growers into Portland at the time of the Oregon Wool Growers Association annual meeting, Harold Cohn of Heppner address and Oregon ewe-selling fame blew into the Benson Hotel quite perturbed, and approaching the desk, asked if one well-known sheep and lamb dealer from western Iowa had arrived yet. Negative reply from the clerk. "Well," said Cohn, "he's got a room reservation here and I was out to the airport to meet him. He's on the program and he ought to be here." "Can't help you any," said the clerk. Two

hours later the Iowan called Cohn on the phone and ask where he had been all the time. "Where have you been and where in heck are you now?" asked Cohn. "I'm in bed at the Heathman Hotel," replied the sheep salesman par excellence from Iowa. "I've been taking a nap. I came in on the plane at noon, you weren't there to meet me, so I came in to the hotel (Heathman) asked for a room, got it, went to bed for a rest and now I've been trying to find you." "Well," said Cohn, "you're just in the wrong hotel and the wrong bed." Later Pete Petersen was found at the Benson Hotel.

—Erle Reed, U. P. R. R.

INSECT SPRAYS UNDER INVESTIGATION

New rules, according to recent reports, are to be written this year covering the use of all kinds of insecticides. Hearings are currently being held by the Food and Drug Administration.

SIMPLIFIED TARIFF REGULATIONS

The U. S. Treasury is reported as drafting a bill to simplify tariff regulations. It is believed that by this means imports will be increased to a greater extent than by reductions in tariff rates.

E. M. Gregory, Secretary
U. S. Archibald, President

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SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

Conventions and Meetings

November 2-3: California Wool Growers Association, San Francisco, California.
 November 5-7: Oregon Wool Growers Association. Place to be announced later.
 November 9-11: Washington Wool Growers Association. Place to be announced later.
 December 5-8: National Wool Growers Association, Casper, Wyoming.

Shows

February 17-26: San Antonio Livestock Exposition, San Antonio, Texas.
 April 1-6: Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition, San Francisco, California.
 May 7: Far Western Sheep Dog Trials, Sacramento, California.
 May 8-9: All American Corriedale Show, Sacramento, California.
 October 27-November 5: Grand National Livestock Exposition, San Francisco, California.

Ram Sales

May 8-9: California Ram Sale, Sacramento, California.
 August 2: Idaho State Ram Sale, Filer, Idaho.
 August 11: Oregon Ram Sale, Pendleton, Oregon.
 August 21-22: National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.

TO INCREASE THE WATER SUPPLY

Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming announced on January 6th that he intends to start hearings on his measure S.1300 introduced on March 18, 1949 providing 50 million dollars to investigate two methods of increasing the Nation's water supply: turning sea water into fresh and increasing the rainfall by seeding clouds with silver iodide particles.

ASSETS OF NATION'S AGRICULTURE DECLINE

The value of assets of the Nation's agriculture at the beginning of 1950 showed the first annual decline since the beginning of the war. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture a preliminary estimate shows a reduction of nearly 5 billion in the valuation of assets from the peak of 127 billion reached at the beginning of 1949. The net decline in assets was accounted for by the reductions in the value of real estate, livestock, crops stored on and off farms, and deposits of currency. These reductions were partially offset by increased assets in machinery, motor vehicles, household equipment, etc.

Since January 1948 prices received by farmers have declined 23 percent.

—Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Vigilance Against Imported Diseases

NONE of the old world livestock plagues have spread to this country since 1928, when the last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurred here. A list of the most dreaded animal diseases which are not known to exist in the U. S., and which the present strict regulations administered by the Bureau of Animal Industry are intended to keep out, would include these:

Foot-and-mouth disease, affecting cloven-footed animals,—highly contagious and likely to be the ruin of established herds which are infected with it. *Rinderpest*, most destructive of all livestock diseases, but for which U. S. and Canadian scientists have produced a vaccine that gives good immunity.

Contagious *pleuropneumonia*, a lung disease of serious nature which exists in Russia, Spain and parts of Asia and Africa. This was the disease that brought about the creation of the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1882, and which was eradicated from the country soon afterward.

Glanders is not as common since the horse population declined yet it is transmissible to humans and must be kept out. *Fowl plague* or fowl pest is highly prevalent in central Europe and once it gets a foothold in a flock the only safe control lies in complete slaughter and disinfection.

East Coast fever, tick-borne disease found in Africa, is being guarded against, and ticks of the type that carry it have been halted at our shores.

Dourine, a horse breeding disease, is a constant threat along the southern borders. *Surra*, a parasitic disease has never entered this country, but is serious in the Philippines. *Teschen* disease is a German swine malady caused by a virus which injures the central nervous system. Death rates of from 50 to 90 percent have been reported.—U.S.D.A.

A STRIPED EWE

There is a ewe with banded fleece in the University of Wyoming's flock and researchers there are watching her offspring. Attempt will be made to ascertain whether the banded fleece is inherited or caused by certain minerals or a combination of both factors. The ewe is a gift from the flock of Michael Ellis, a Casper rancher.

Banded fleeces show up at market centers occasionally, according to R. H. Burns, head of the Wool Department at the Wyoming Institute, but seldom has such fleece been identified with a specific sheep. During the first month of growth the fleece is a black color and then a white band appears.

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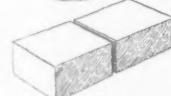
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